GREAT FALLS

by

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MOUNTAIN MEADOW - DAY

Forest dusted with snow.

A majestic elk with a huge rack grazes in a silent field.

He hears something and freezes, looks around warily, then resumes grazing.

WOODS - CONTINUOUS

A gunshot rings through the canyon.

GLENN MAPLES (16) confident and steel-eyed, clad in winter camouflage and hunters orange, sits in a pine tree wedged between the branches. He lowers the scope of the rifle.

His fellow hunters are scattered around the tree below him.

TIM HORVATH (16) looks through binoculars in the direction of the shot.

DARYLL DOZIER (15), tall and skinny, and NICKIE HORVATH (38), Tim's Father, bearded, tall and rugged, also stare into the direction of the shot.

DARYLL Did you get him?

GLENN

I got him.

MOUNTAIN MEADOW - MOMENTS LATER

The meadow is still. The air crisp.

Horses trudge through knee-deep snow and carry the hunters to the dead elk.

The hunters dismount.

Snow crunches under their boots.

Nickie exuberantly races to the animal and beats the boys there by a full ten yards.

NICKIE

Boy, that is as clean a shot as you can get. Right through the heart. Look at him. He's beautiful.

DARYLL Damn, he's huge.

TIM HORVATH He is. Good shot Glenn.

NICKIE

This calls for a drink, boy.

Nickie grins wildly and races back to the horse.

DARYLL

We should take a picture.

Glenn stares into the dead eye of the animal and kneels beside it. Snow drifts down lightly and Glenn carefully brushes it away from the elk's face and snout.

Nickie rushes back with a thermos and unscrews the cap. He shoves the cap into the gunshot wound and fills it with blood.

Nickie raises the cup to Glenn.

NICKIE Here you go. Drink up.

GLENN What? No. No thanks.

NICKIE Come again? You killed the elk, you drink the blood.

GLENN I'm not going to do it.

NICKIE I killed my first bull I drank it. Your Dad's first kill he drank it. It's your first bull. You drink the blood. You've got to do it.

Glenn stands and backs away.

GLENN Well, I'm not going to. Glenn wanders away. He drags his rifle in the snow.

NICKIE Glenn! Glenn! Come on Glenn, why not?

Glenn stares back at his fellow hunters and mounts his horse.

GLENN I'm not you.

WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

A shallow trail in the snow leads to the dead elk.

A tether from the elks hoof leads to the saddle horn on Glenn's horse. The elk's tongue hangs down. The rack leaves a skid in the track.

Glenn leads the horse by the bridle and looks back to see Nickie a few paces behind the elk.

NICKIE How's your horse holding up?

GLENN

Alright.

NICKIE

After we go over this ridge, let's tie him on Tim's animal, give your guy a rest.

Daryll rides far ahead of Tim.

Tim rides close in front of Glenn.

Tim looks over his shoulder.

TIM HORVATH You want to ride with me?

GLENN No, I'll walk.

TIM HORVATH

You okay?

GLENN I'm just fucking fine and dandy. TIM HORVATH What's the matter, man? You just shot a huge elk.

GLENN That's what men do, isn't it?

TIM HORVATH If you don't want the credit for it, I'll say I shot it.

GLENN

Right.

TIM HORVATH Too bad your Dad couldn't come with us.

Daryll spies something ahead.

A fox perks up and stares back at him.

Daryll goads the horse to charge.

The fox scurries away.

Daryll chases the fox.

Tim quickly chases after Daryll.

The horses bound through the powder.

The fox skips and darts elusively.

A steep slope.

The horse takes Daryll over the edge and they race down through the snow.

Tim halts his horse at the top of the ridge.

Daryll rides his horse straight down to the bottom.

Powdery snow flies all around them.

Daryll searches for the fox.

Nickie's horse lobs up to Tim and stops.

Glenn leads his horse to the edge.

They all look down at Daryll.

NICKIE (shouts) What was it? DARYLL (shouts) A fox. NICKIE What'd he say? TIM HORVATH A fox. They survey the steep angle of the slope. NICKIE I can't believe he stayed on that horse. (shouts) We're taking the easy way down. (to Tim and Glenn) That's so steep. Crazy. They all look over the edge at Daryll. INT. LUCKY'S CASINO - DAY A poker machine deals a losing hand. A woman's hand slaps the DEAL button again. Five cards are dealt. PATTY-JOYCE MAPLES (40) Thin and pretty with straight brown hair, ponders the cards and saves two of them. She hits the DEAL button again and wins the hand. The machine blips and beeps. An ATTENDANT, young and pretty girl walks up beside her. ATTENDANT Nice one. PATTY-JOYCE One more like that and I'll be back where I started.

INT. MAPLES MOTORCYCLE DEALERSHIP - EVENING

The showroom floor gleams with new Harley Davidson motorcycles and Kawasaki snowmobiles.

A dozen lively people celebrate with beer and wine.

The elk head forever wails in mute protest above the door.

On a desk sits a shiny new trophy.

Trophy text: GREAT FALLS BUSINESS OWNERS OF THE YEAR - 1977 - CALVIN AND PATRICIA-JOYCE MAPLES - MAPLES MOTOR WORLD.

CAL MAPLES (42) Thin and plain, grins ear to ear and holds his wife by her waist.

PATTY-JOYCE MAPLES, 40, An inch taller than Cal, kisses him.

DEWEY (64) a rotund salesman with thinning hair, stands with his arms around Cal and Patty-Joyce as Nickie, clad in biker leather and skullcap, lines up the shot through the camera.

Nickie snaps a picture and CAROLINE (19) a younger version of Patty-Joyce appears.

CAROLINE Here, Uncle Nick, get in there and let me take a picture of all of you.

Caroline takes the camera.

DEWEY Get that elk in there this time. That's just a tremendous trophy. Haven't seen one like that in thirty years.

CAL What about the man who killed it? Where's Glenn?

The group looks around and spot him across the floor.

DEWEY Glenn, get over here so we can take a picture.

Across the room, Glenn leaves Daryll and Tim and runs over.

CAL Got to have the man who shot the elk in here.

NICKIE He ain't a man yet.

CAL Get in here son.

GLENN Family photo? What about her.

CAL Caroline! Get in here.

CAROLINE No, I'll just take the picture.

CAL No, no you always do that, now get in here! Anna! Take our picture, will you?

ANNA (45) a chubby blonde woman takes the camera.

The whole family smiles for the camera.

Anna snaps the picture.

DEWEY That'll be a great one. The whole family. The trophies. Just great!

Caroline holds Glenn's hand for the picture and smiles at him.

Glenn breaks away and skips back across the showroom floor to his friends.

GARY FLYNN (16), average teen in a Charlie Russell High School letter jacket rushes in the door and beelines to the trio of boys.

> FLYNN So, I'm here. Shock me. Where is it?

Glenn points skyward. They look up at the elk.

TIM HORVATH It'd spike you if it were alive. Look. Flynn jumps back.

FLYNN You weren't kidding. That thing is huge. Where'd you go? Bob Marshall?

GLENN Crazies. Out of Two Dot.

GLENN

Sure you would.

TIM HORVATH Told you. Seven hundred pounds of meat. One shot. You should have seen it.

DARYLL Took the taxidermist long enough. I would have been pounding his door down myself.

FLYNN They always take a couple of months anyway. So that's who we were eating for New Years? (to elk) You're delicious! Damn, Maples, I really am impressed now - even if you didn't drink the blood.

GLENN Shut up. Get over it already.

DARYLL He's sensitive now. No more violent behavior, right Glenn?

Glenn cringes at Daryll and backs away silently losing himself in the crowd.

TIM HORVATH He told you to shut up. You guys need to stop saying shit like that.

FLYNN

What?

Dewey steps up to the adults with four more beers dangling between his fingers.

DEWEY Cold ones. Who needs a fresh start?

NICKIE I'd say it's about time for another. Thanks, Dad.

CAL Thanks, Dad. You're the best.

Nickie chugs down the remainder of his beer in hand and cracks open the new one. He raises his bottle and shouts.

NICKIE He may know how to chill beer, I'll give you that. But, you Cal, you know how to run a business. Here's to the best damn motorcycle dealership in the world!

Others in the dealership join him. CROWD 1 CROWD 2 Hear! Hear! You bet!

> DEWEY Way to go Cal!

INT. HIGH SCHOOL ARENA - DAY

The gym class plays basketball.

COACH JEFF (40) blondish, not particularly athletic, wears sweats and a cap, blows the whistle and play comes to a halt.

> COACH JEFF Okay guys. Shower up. Get to class. Back here at 3:15.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - LATER

Glenn ties his shoes, almost ready to go.

JIMMY RADER (17) tall and skinny, plops on his jacket over a karate uniform top with red belt and jeans.

RADER Still need a ride? I'll drop you off on my way to the dojo. GLENN Yeah, if you don't mind.

RADER No problem.

They start out the locker room door.

GLENN Oh, hold on. I need my towel.

Rader goes through the door and Glenn turns to walk around the corner back into the showers. He startles himself.

Two naked boys hug in the shower with their backs to him.

Glenn freezes, stunned. His jaw drops.

A shout from behind rings through the showers.

RADER (V.O.) Maples! Let's go!

Tim Horvath and Daryll Dozier turn to face Glenn.

They all gasp.

Glenn stammers but says nothing. He moves quickly to the towel hook a few feet away and grabs his towel.

Tim and Daryll look scared.

Glenn charges out the door.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAYS - CONTINUOUS

Glenn shakes his head.

RADER What's the matter?

GLENN Nothing, man. I just thought about something, that's all. It's nothing. Let's go.

INT. MAPLES MOTORCYCLE DEALERSHIP - DAY

Cal sits at his desk and Patty-Joyce searches though the filing cabinet.

Dewey ducks his head in.

DEWEY Hey, man of the year, I got a guy out here who wants five-hundred bucks off a new sled. CAL Five hundred bucks? Is he nuts? DEWEY He's a negotiator. Come on out and give him a pair of gloves and I think we'll have a deal. CAL Oh, he's going to get a deal alright. Cal stands abruptly and wrenches his back. PATTY-JOYCE Give 'em hell honey. CAL Ooh! DEWEY You okay? CAL It's my back. PATTY-JOYCE Again? DEWEY You didn't go to the chiropractor like I told you, did you?

Cal shakes his head "No."

PATTY-JOYCE Maybe you ought to listen to Dewey for a change.

DEWEY For a change? Sweetheart, you've always got to listen to old Dew'.

Nickie blocks the doorway.

NICKIE What happened to you?

DEWEY He keeps stacking boxes without bending his knees, is what.

Cal places a hand on Nickie's shoulder as he exits the door.

CAL Trust me, I'm fine. How's it going Nick?

NICKIE Same ol', same ol'. You should see a chiropractor.

DEWEY That's what I told him!

Dewey and Cal exit the office.

NICKIE You're always right, Dewey.

DEWEY (V.O.)

I know.

Nickie turns his attention to Patty-Joyce.

NICKIE

Hey.

PATTY-JOYCE

What's up?

NICKIE Just picking up some chain lube.

Patty-Joyce smiles at him.

PATTY-JOYCE Oh, yeah?

NICKIE

Well, you got to be lubed up if somebody's going to be jerking your chain.

PATTY-JOYCE (laughs) You're bad. NICKIE Bad to the bone. So what's going on? PATTY-JOYCE What do you mean? NICKIE You try that shit I gave you? PATTY-JOYCE (snickers) Fuck'n'a. That shit was fucking crazy. What'd you call it? NICKIE Tab tea. PATTY-JOYCE

Tab tea? What the fuck is it? I thought my eyeballs were going to fall out.

NICKIE I don't know. Some synthetic shit. You want some more?

PATTY-JOYCE Fuck no. I'm still all . . .

NICKIE

Fuzzy?

PATTY-JOYCE Yeah. Don't tell Cal.

NICKIE Duh. Like I would.

PATTY-JOYCE I know. You need something?

Nickie smiles, shakes his head and chuckles.

NICKIE

I'll see you later.

Nickie steps away.

A furious basketball game erupts between the Timberwolves and the Giants.

As the Giants score, Coach Jeff signals for his captain, Glenn, to call time out.

The Timberwolves converge at the bench, sweaty and exhilarated.

COACH JEFF Okay Guys, one defensive stand away from a shot at winning this thing. Do you want to win a state championship?

PLAYERS (yelling) Yes! Definitely!

COACH JEFF (louder) I said, do you want to win a state championship?

PLAYERS (shouting) YEAH!!!!!!

COACH JEFF

Alright! Tight man to man on this defensive stand. If we don't get the turnover by the 15 second mark, we foul. Don't pull anybody behind the three point line. If we get the turnover the play is motion double screen blue post. Maples will take the shot. Maples, make sure you come off the double screen quick. Double time.

Whistle blows.

COACH JEFF Hands in on three - DEFENSE!

PLAYERS

DEFENSE!

The ANNOUNCER (35), suited up and serious about his basketball, talks fast with his eyes keen on the players and the scoreboard.

ANNOUNCER

We have 32 seconds left in this severely intensive match-up and the score is Giants 80, Timberwolves 79. This crowd is standing on the benches and nobody is even blinking, you don't want to miss a moment of this one. We've got a one point game. Both teams are unbeaten. Only 32 seconds stand between these boys and victory or defeat. The winner tonight, and there can be only one, will play for the 4-A State Boys Basketball Championship.

The ball tips. Play resumes. Announcer narrates action.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

The Giants in bound the ball. Johnson crosses center court. The T-Wolves are in tight man to man defense. Johnson passes right side to Linder. Linder dribbles and fires to Darden on the baseline -OH! It's overthrown! The Giants turn the ball over with just 18 seconds to play. Rader will inbound from the near sideline.

RADER Motion double screen blue post . . . GO!

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

The Timberwolves speed out and the inbound pass goes to Flynn, the T-Wolves will have to set up quick. Flynn into the front court on the run to the left side. Out top to Rader. Rader back to Flynn. Flynn looks inside and passes to Dozier on the baseline. Dozier passes it to Maples at the free throw line. He's not open but he's taking the shot with Darden all over him. Glenn shoots as DARDEN (16) a taller boy, knocks him to the floor.

The ball sails cleanly through the basket.

The buzzer rings.

ANNOUNCER

It's good! The Timberwolves are going to play for the 4-A state championship! Glenn Maples has done it again!

An ecstatic crowd floods the court.

The team picks up Glenn Maples and carries him proudly for everyone to see.

When they let him down, he finds himself steps away from Darden.

Glenn walks over. He holds out his hand to Darden.

GLENN

Good game!

Darden jumps back, shocked and embarrassed, hesitantly puts out his hand and shakes.

DARDEN Yeah. Good Game.

Glenn slaps him on the shoulder with his free hand.

GLENN Seriously! You made it really tough out there. Good playing with you.

Darden winces, dumbstruck at Glenn's sportsmanship.

Other people in the crowd get Glenn's attention. He turns to his friends.

The coach calls out from a few feet away.

COACH JEFF Good job, Maples!

GLENN

Thanks Coach!

Cal and Patty-Joyce climb down from the stands.

Glenn sees them and waves. Glenn breaks through the crowd to hug them.

PATTY-JOYCE That's my boy!

CAL That's our boy! You did it son! Congratulations!

A pretty blonde girl, KATIE (16) sidles up next to Glenn. She hugs him and kisses him on the cheek, then stays beside him.

> KATIE That was incredible! Completely incredible.

GLENN We're going out to the falls. Is it okay if I stay out a little later after?

PATTY-JOYCE I think that's probably okay on a night like tonight.

GLENN I'll be home by 11:30.

Cal and Patty-Joyce smirk at each other.

CAL Make it midnight.

GLENN Thanks Dad! Oh, can I borrow the truck?

The cheering crowd consumes Glenn like a conquering hero.

Cal smirks again.

CAL How does he think we're supposed to get home?

EXT. WATERFALL PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The parking lot sits on a cliff overlooking waterfalls and a dam.

Teenagers revel in the Timberwolves victory.

They party loudly and drink beer.

Some toss a football.

Glenn and Katie cuddle on the tailgate of a pickup truck.

A football whizzes toward them.

VOICE (V.O.) Maples! Think fast!

Glenn snags the ball out of the air, smirks, and rockets it back in the direction it came.

Katie gives a drunken smile.

KATIE You do football, too? I didn't know you could throw a football?

GLENN You've seen me throw a football before.

She grabs his bicep and kisses him.

KATIE

Muscle man.

GLENN Yeah, muscle man.

The football returns and bounces around next to them in the pickup bed.

VOICE (V.O.) Maples! Over here!

GLENN Next time I'm going to keep it!

Glenn rolls back into the bed of the truck to retrieve the ball, then stands up to throw it.

GLENN So who wants it?

Daryll waves reluctantly.

Glenn scowls at him.

GLENN You want it or not?

DARYLL Yeah. Sure. Toss it over here.

GLENN Where's your buddy?

DARYLL You going to toss me the ball or what?

GLENN Can you catch it?

DARYLL I *can* catch it!

GLENN

Okay!

Glenn fires it back, this time much harder.

Daryll tries to catch it, but he can't. It stings his hands and he drops it.

The crowd emits cheers and jeers.

DARYLL I mean I *could* catch it if you could throw.

VOICE IN CROWD (V.O.) (in awe) Whoa!

The teens turn and stare at them.

VOICE IN CROWD (V.O.) He's talking shit!

GLENN (smiling) Here, let me try it again.

Daryll tosses the ball back.

GLENN

Ready?

Daryll nods and Glenn rockets it back again as hard as he can.

Daryll catches it in his gut but gets the wind knocked out of him and falls to the ground.

The crowd laughs.

Glenn jumps out of the back of the truck walks over to him.

GLENN Well, you caught that one! My aim must be getting better!

The crowd laughs and Daryll just shakes his head.

Glenn puts his hand out and helps Daryll up.

GLENN You gonna live?

DARYLL Yeah. But I guess I owe you a beer for that one.

GLENN Next time. I'm D.D. tonight.

DARYLL D.D.? What's that?

GLENN Designated driver.

DARYLL Designated driver? Isn't that for pussies?

The crowd reacts to this with more hushed jeers and whispers.

CROWD (V.O.)

0000000h.

The crowd gets quieter.

VOICE IN CROWD (V.O.) (hushed) Bad move.

GLENN

What?

The crowd goes silent.

Daryll immediately understands his error.

GLENN What did you mean?

Daryll is speechless. Glenn remains calm and almost whispers when he asks again, but it chills Daryll.

GLENN

What did you mean?

Daryll freezes and Glenn steps up to him.

Glenn takes the football out of his hands. He puts his arm around Daryll's shoulder and slaps him on the back.

GLENN

Let's take a walk.

They move away from the crowd.

Glenn puts his arm around Daryll and tells him something privately.

The crowd watches them in hushed tones.

Daryll listens to Glenn intently.

Glenn slaps him on the back.

He gently tosses the football up in the air and Daryll catches it.

Daryll hangs his head in shame.

Glenn turns away and walks toward the truck.

The crowd resumes partying.

A voice cries out for the football.

VOICE (V.O.)

Daryll!

Daryll throws it hard toward the voice.

Glenn sits down on the tailgate next to Katie as Daryll is absorbed into the night.

KATIE Why didn't you kick his ass?

GLENN I've kicked his ass before. Doing it again won't prove anything.

KATIE I can't believe you some times. You used to kick ass.

GLENN I guess knowing I can is good enough.

KATIE I can't believe how you let him get away with that.

GLENN Think he looks victorious?

Daryll sits alone on the cliff and drinks a beer.

Others gathered into groups.

They throw the football and party on.

KATIE What did you say to him anyway? Tell him how much you like him?

GLENN

In so many words. We have known each other since first grade.

Katie takes Glenn's head in her hands and stares into his eyes.

KATIE

Hold still. I want to look inside there and see if you're real. I mean, are you a real teenage boy like the rest of them or are you made out of wires and circuits like a TV?

GLENN

I'm real.

KATIE

You can't be real. You hold doors for people. You don't even get high.

GLENN So what's wrong with that?

KATIE Put out your arms. I want to see how long your arms are.

He complies and she stretches out hers. She grasps his palms.

KATIE No nail marks. No stigmata. How did you get so perfect?

GLENN I'm far from perfect.

A scream chills the air.

GIRL OH MY GOD! Did you see that! Did anybody see that?

VOICE (V.O.) What happened?

GIRL DARYLL DOZIER JUMPED OFF THE CLIFF!

Katie and Glenn look at each other for a split second and dash to the crowd gathered at the cliff.

They look down into the dark.

BILL CRENSHAW (17) crawls out on the rock and peers down.

CRENSHAW

Daryll!

GIRL Can anybody see him?

VOICE IN CROWD (V.O.) Somebody get a flashlight!

GLENN Are you serious? He jumped? FLYNN We have to go down there.

GLENN You can't go down there. It's straight down.

FLYNN Daryll! Can you hear me?

GIRL

Daryll!

KATIE Shh! Listen!

They turn quiet and listen.

Somebody runs up with a flash light and shines it over the cliff.

The light beam scans the area and spots nothing.

GIRL

Daryll!

VOICES IN CROWD (in turns) Daryll! Daryll! Can you hear me! Are you down there? Oh, my God! Oh, God!

They go silent and stare at one another.

FLYNN We need to call the police.

Glenn stares blankly over the cliff.

WATERFALL PARKING LOT - LATER

Police cars with flashing lights fill the lot.

An officer stands with the girl who witnessed the jump.

GIRL (cries and stammers) He just stood up on the wall - and he jumped. Like he - was - diving diving - into a swimming pool. OFFICER Did he say anything?

GIRL No. He just - jumped.

Glenn sobs in the back of a police car.

OFFICER 2 Did you hit him?

GLENN

No.

OFFICER 2 Did you threaten him?

GLENN No. I swear! He's my friend.

Glenn looks desperately out the police car window to Katie.

Two helicopters hover.

Spotlights shine on the cliff face.

The parking lot crowds into a small tight group surrounded by police cars.

A rescue basket hangs from one helicopter.

The other helicopter floodlights the RESCUE WORKER in the basket who commands with a raised thumb. He is hoisted up and over the parking lot.

The gondola descends to the parking lot.

Police hold back the crowd.

The RESCUE WORKER looks at the PARAMEDICS standing by with a stretcher. He shakes his head no.

Flynn watches and towers over the rest of the crowd.

VOICE IN CROWD (V.O.) What are they doing? Can you see anything?

FLYNN They're not moving real quick, I'll tell you that. They load Daryll's body onto a stretcher and cover him with a sheet. The PARAMEDICS place him in back of the ambulance and shut the door.

INT. MAPLES HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Cal paces. Patty-Joyce sits at the dining room table with her head in her hands.

CAL Why? I don't get it. Did I do something wrong?

PATTY-JOYCE No. Nothing. I just - I don't feel right.

CAL What do you mean? Feel right about what?

PATTY-JOYCE

Our life, I mean - my life. I just feel like this isn't my life. Like I don't belong here - that - that I should - that my life should have been different. Just doing something different.

CAL Different how?

PATTY-JOYCE I don't know how. I just don't feel like I'm in the right place.

The phone rings.

CAL P.J. I'm not sure what you're talking about, but maybe you need to go see that shrink with Glenn.

The phone rings again.

PATTY-JOYCE Will you get that?

Cal reaches over and picks up.

CAL

Hello. Yes? What? Is this a joke? Is he okay? Okay. I'll be right there.

PATTY-JOYCE Who was that?

CAL That was the police. We have to go pick up Glenn.

EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

The Maples Family files out of the police station. Cal and Patty-Joyce flank Glenn.

Glenn sees Katie with her parents.

They let him go and he runs to her.

She breaks away from her father and they embrace briefly.

KATIE'S DAD (45), mustached and chubby and KATIE'S MOM (39), an older version of Katie, acknowledge Cal and Patty-Joyce with nods.

KATIE'S DAD That's some terrible stuff, isn't it Cal?

CAL

Sure is.

The teens embrace a long time as the parents watch.

When they step apart, they look at each other, traumatized, and go separate directions.

Katie's father holds the door for her.

KATIE'S DAD Let's go home, sweetheart.

INT. MAPLES CAR - CONTINUOUS

Glenn climbs into the front seat with his father. Patty-Joyce sits in back.

They drive in silence a few moments. Patty-Joyce strokes Glenn's hair from behind.

PATTY-JOYCE So, it was Daryll? I can't believe it. What happened?

GLENN I don't know. I wasn't watching.

CAL I thought you were a witness.

GLENN I was there, but I didn't see him jump. I was the last person he talked to.

CAL You were? So what did he say?

GLENN He didn't say anything.

MONTAGE - HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAYS / CLASSROOMS The principal makes an announcement over the P.A. The students solemn. The school still.

> PRINCIPAL (V.O.) Today we say goodbye to one of our own. This is not easy, not for me, not for any of us. I need to let you know, for those students and faculty who feel it necessary, the state is sending us grief counselors from Billings. They will be here later today. All meetings will be confidential and of your own accord. I highly recommend that no matter how you feel, you consider spending a few minutes with a counselor today. It will do you no harm. I am going to excuse school for the remainder of the day. But first, we will have a brief moment of silence in honor of our friend; Daryll Dozier.

A tear runs down Katie's face. Daryll's desk sits empty. Glenn stares vacantly. Tim Horvath gulps and almost yelps a bit. A girl consoles him with a hug.

INT. PRINCIPALS OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The principal speaks into the microphone and holds the P.A. button down.

PRINCIPAL Thank you for your prayers. Counselors will be in room 112 and room 114 starting at noon.

INT. MAPLES HOME - AFTERNOON

Patty-Joyce watches TV news covering the suicide.

REPORTER (V.O.) . . . reportedly dove over the edge of the cliff at approximately 10:30 last night. Witnesses say this was an act of suicide and police say no foul play is suspected, but that alcohol was involved. The student's body was found approximately sixty feet down from the rim of the canyon about halfway to the bottom, reportedly wedged between boulders and trees growing out of the side of the cliff. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Glenn slumps in and Patty-Joyce quickly turns off the TV.

PATTY-JOYCE

Hey, Champ!

GLENN

Hi.

PATTY-JOYCE How's it going?

GLENN I wish people would stop asking me that.

PATTY-JOYCE Okay. You want to eat? He holds on for a moment. They break apart.

GLENN

I am so ready to eat.

INT. DOCTORS OFFICE - DAY

Cal Maples sits on the edge of an examining table in his undershirt.

DR. ANNETTE BELGRADE (35) in smock, hair pulled back in a bun, enters with ultrasound scans in hand. She immediately hangs them up on the wall and flicks on the backlight.

DR. BELGRADE

Cal, I 'm sure you would like to have better news, but I can only confirm what you've already been told.

CAL

What is it?

DR. BELGRADE

First of all. These are definitely cysts. Your blood tests, both of them, came back positive for PKD. Polycystic kidney disease. Your lack of urine, the dizziness, the back pain. It all points to PKD. I'm sorry.

CAL So what kind of medicine do I need?

DR. BELGRADE You need a new kidney.

CAL

What!

DR. BELGRADE

I'm really very sorry. Your kidneys are dying. Right now, I'm going to prescribe dialysis. There is a dialysis clinic right here in the hospital complex. I'm sure your insurance would cover most of it. CAL Dialysis? Does that hurt?

DR. BELGRADE You get poked with a needle every day. But it's the only thing we can do while we wait.

CAL Wait for what?

DR. BELGRADE A donor. I'm going to put you on the list. Other than your kidneys themselves, you're a very healthy man.

Cal stiffens up in agony.

CAL What? How? How did I get this?

DR. BELGRADE It's hereditary.

CAL Are you sure? I need new kidneys?

Dr. Belgrade points to the ultrasound scan.

DR. BELGRADE

Calvin, each one of these dark spots is a cyst. You have eight on one side and five on the other. You're lucky you can even stand up. Most people whose kidneys look like this can't even walk because of the pain. I know this is unnerving. But, you need treatment as soon as possible. Plus, you should start looking for a donor on your own.

CAL

What do you mean?

DR. BELGRADE Donor lists are long. You actually have to be lucky sometimes. In the right place, at the right time, on the right list, when a donor becomes available. CAL Becomes available?

DR. BELGRADE When somebody dies. So, I would urge you to talk to your family. You only need one kidney to live.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAYS - LATER

Cal plods through the hallway.

Other patients and medical staff walk past him.

He comes to a dead stop when he sees the dialysis clinic and stares at it.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Glenn eats a bowl of soup as Patty-Joyce watches lovingly.

PATTY-JOYCE So, you wanted to have some friends over tomorrow?

GLENN

Birthday one day, funeral the next? I feel like there's something wrong about that. Can I just skip it?

PATTY-JOYCE You still have to turn seventeen.

GLENN I know. But I don't want a party now.

PATTY-JOYCE

It's okay. So did you see a grief counselor? I mean - your counselor? Dr. Miller?

GLENN

No. I don't want to talk to him. I feel like I'm done with it. I'm done with therapy anyway. Even though Daryll's - I should just let him go. You know?

PATTY-JOYCE

Move on.

Definitely.

PATTY-JOYCE I feel that way too, sometimes.

EXT. MAPLES HOME DRIVEWAY - DAY

Cal, Patty-Joyce and Glenn stand in the driveway.

Patty-Joyce appears concerned, Glenn curious, Cal has a deviant smirk.

PATTY-JOYCE Is something going to happen?

CAL

Listen.

They listen intently. No sound.

GLENN

I don't hear anything.

CAL Wait for it. There it is. Listen.

A hum in the distance.

Glenn and Patty-Joyce strain to hear.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS - DAY

Nickie sits atop a beautifully restored cherry red and chrome machine, a circa 1950's Harley-Davidson. Despite the rumble of the bike he floats steadily down the street and rolls into the driveway. He revs the motor to a roar once more before shutting it down.

CAL Ta-daaa!

PATTY-JOYCE What's this?

CAL What do you think? It's his.

NICKIE Happy birthday kid. GLENN No way! Are you serious? No way! This is too far out!

PATTY-JOYCE That is gorgeous.

Nickie hops off and hands it over to Glenn.

NICKIE

All yours.

PATTY-JOYCE Where did you get it?

NICKIE Junk yard. His idea. I rebuilt it. Remember when Dad had one just like it?

PATTY-JOYCE I do. I want one.

Glenn sits on the bike.

GLENN This is a fantastic bike! It's incredible!

CAL Start it up.

Glenn looks it over and turns the key.

GLENN

Not going.

CAL It's a kick start.

Glenn examines the bike and pounces on the starter.

Nothing. He pounces again. Nothing. A third time.

Cal and Nickie laugh.

NICKIE What's the matter, Glenn? Too much bike for you?

GLENN Is this the only way to start it?

CAL That's it. When you can start it, you can ride it.

Glenn pounces on the starter again. Cal and Nickie have a great laugh. Barely a flutter. Again. Again. Again.

GLENN

Trust me. I'm going to start it.

One more, no two more, okay, a third mighty kick and the bike starts.

The adults cheer.

CAL Atta boy! That's the way you do it!

Glenn waves as he rolls off and lets out the throttle.

Cal watches vicariously.

PATTY-JOYCE That's quite the bike. Why?

CAL Why not? You only live once. Thanks for bringing it over Nick.

NICKIE No prob. But I still think it's too much bike for the kid, if you ask me.

CAL He'll grow into it. He got it started didn't he?

EXT. RIVER DRIVE - MOMENTS LATER

Glenn roars along the two lane blacktop two hundred feet above the Missouri River. As he passes the waterfall parking lot he spots Tim Horvath, who sits on the hood of his car, alone. Glenn turns the bike around, rolls up to him and shuts off the bike.

> GLENN What's going on?
TIM HORVATH

See you got the Harley. Told my dad you liked blue, but he said the red was original.

GLENN

Red's cool.

TIM HORVATH

He worked on that thing for like six months. I didn't even know it was for you until the other day.

GLENN Six months? Wow. What are you doing up here?

TIM HORVATH Just wondering. Trying to figure it out. Where was he when he jumped?

Glenn points.

GLENN

Over there.

TIM HORVATH What did he say? What did you say?

GLENN

Nothing.

TIM HORVATH

Nothing? They said you guys talked for like five minutes and then he jumped over the edge. Why would he do that?

GLENN

I don't know.

TIM HORVATH You were going to kick his ass or some shit weren't you?

GLENN

No.

Tim lays back on the hood of the car and covers his eyes with his arm.

TIM HORVATH Go away from me, man. I don't want to talk to you right now.

Glenn almost speaks, but goes to start the bike instead. It takes four embarrassing kicks before he zips away.

INT. KATIE'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Glenn sits on a recliner with Katie on his lap. They peck and kiss gently.

Katie's Mom enters and clears her throat.

They immediately break up and Katie stands.

KATIE'S MOM (with a sigh) Are you staying for dinner Glenn?

He looks to Katie first who nods approvingly.

GLENN

Okay.

KATIE'S MOM Try to control yourselves. Your father's going to be here any second.

They snicker as Katie's Mom exits. Katie snuggles up next to him again.

GLENN What do you want to do later?

KATIE Take me out on your bike.

GLENN Think they'll let you?

Glenn nods.

KATIE Who? You mean my parents? I don't need my parents approval to ride on your motorcycle.

GLENN Well, Katie, it's kind of KATIE

What?

GLENN I can't just give you a ride.

KATIE Are you serious?

Katie glares at him.

GLENN

Not if they don't say it's okay. I don't even have a helmet for you.

KATIE You don't wear a helmet.

GLENN I'm not going to fall off the back.

Katie jumps up.

KATIE I don't even believe this.

She marches out of the room.

GLENN

What?

Katie's Dad walks in through the front door.

KATIE'S DAD Hi Glenn. Nice bike. You're not driving Katie around on that thing are you?

INT. KATIE'S HOUSE, DINING ROOM - LATER

Katie, her parents and Glenn dine.

KATIE'S DAD Guess you're getting to be quite the basketball star. You going to get a scholarship?

GLENN I don't know. I didn't think I was a star.

KATIE'S DAD

That's what they say. That's what I hear anyway. Glenn Maples, the basketball star. Damn shame about Daryll. That's too bad for you kids, having that happen. Losing a team mate and all.

KATIE'S MOM

Alright now. That's enough. Glenn, how fast can you go on your motorcycle?

GLENN

It can go up t-

KATIE'S DAD

Well, it's still a damn shame. I'm just glad there wasn't any drugs in his system. I thought for sure there would be when I heard that, but the news said he was clean. Figured he was high on LSD. He wasn't even over the legal limit for DWI. Not like this little princess here.

KATIE

DAD!

KATIE'S DAD I'm just glad we got a good guy like you looking out for our Katie, that's all I got to say.

KATIE'S MOM Is that all?

KATIE'S DAD

I'm curious. Is it true that you were the last one to talk to him before he jumped? It's fascinating to think what must be going through somebody's mind to make them do that.

KATIE

Aaauuuuuuugh!

Katie bolts up and runs away.

KATIE'S MOM You just don't know when to quit, do you Martin!

KATIE'S DAD What? Where is she going?

KATIE'S MOM Just stop it! Get off that subject! Just stop!

KATIE'S DAD We're just having a conversation.

KATIE'S MOM I don't think they want to talk about it.

KATIE'S DAD He doesn't mind. He's a man. You don't mind, do you Glenn? They say it's good to get stuff off your chest.

GLENN Actually . . .

KATIE'S MOM We're done! Glenn do you want some dessert?

GLENN Uh . . . dessert?

KATIE'S MOM (shouting) Yes, Glenn! Dessert, do you want some dessert!

His plate is nearly full.

GLENN

Well, I

KATIE'S MOM Yes, or no?

KATIE'S DAD What are you yelling for? Leave the guy alone! We're trying to eat, here.

Katie's Mom slams down her utensils, gets up and leaves.

A long moment of silence.

KATIE'S DAD Don't mind her Glenn. Women. You'll see. They're all a little off-kilter. Never know what they'll do next. That's why we have to protect them.

The men eat.

INT. MAPLES MOTORCYCLE DEALERSHIP - AFTERNOON

Patty-Joyce sits at Cal's desk.

She edits paperwork with a yellow marker.

Nickie strolls in and knocks as he enters.

NICKIE Want to go burn one?

PATTY-JOYCE

Right now?

NICKIE Could there be a better time?

PATTY-JOYCE That sounds pretty fucking good.

NICKIE It will be pretty fucking good. Why don't you hop on your scooter and take a ride over to the shop?

Patty-Joyce looks around the dealership.

Dewey leans against a pole in front.

Anna and Beverly do crossword puzzles.

PATTY-JOYCE It is a slow day. Why don't you head over there and I'll see you in say - twenty?

NICKIE It's a deal.

Nickie heads out and stops to talk to Dewey.

I/E. LUCKY'S CASINO - DAY

Patty-Joyce drives up to the door on her motorcycle. She parks and heads inside.

A few GAMBLERS play poker machines.

Patty-Joyce chooses a machine and sticks a twenty dollar bill in the slot.

EXT. EIGHT-BALL GARAGE - DAY

Patty-Joyce rolls up on her motorcycle and looks in the window.

She surveys the street and sees no traffic, then drives around back.

INT. EIGHT-BALL GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

She drives right into the garage and shuts the bike off.

Nickie appears from around the corner, smirks and tokes a joint.

NICKIE What took you so long?

Patty-Joyce gets off the bike and takes the joint. She takes a hit.

PATTY-JOYCE I had a stop to make. This is good shit.

Nickie laughs.

NICKIE Know what else would be good?

PATTY-JOYCE

Nickie.

As she tokes, Nickie manhandles her and dives into her blouse.

NICKIE This'd be good.

PATTY-JOYCE Nickie. We can't be doing this.

NICKIE Come on now, we're family.

PATTY-JOYCE I know. Why does being so bad feel so good? Nickie.

She pulls the joint away and kisses him, breathing the smoke into his mouth.

Nickie takes the joint away and sets it down on the bench.

They kiss again and violently rip their clothes off.

They have sex on Nickie's work bench among dirty rags and wrenches.

EXT. MAPLES MOTORCYCLE DEALERSHIP - AFTERNOON

Dewey drags his cigar and watches Cal drive in and park.

Cal exits his car and slogs up to Dewey and sits beside him.

DEWEY You just missed her. Said she had some shopping to do.

CAL That's okay. Not sure I want to see her right now anyway.

DEWEY Something wrong?

CAL I got some news yesterday.

DEWEY What kind of news.

CAL No the good kind. I need a kidney.

Dewey slumps back shocked and looks faint.

DEWEY No shit? Cal. That's just . . . are you sure? CAL Yeah, Dew, I'm sure. I went to the doctors. Got it tested. He puts a hand on Cal's shoulder. DEWEY Well, even so. They could be wrong. CAL They're not. DEWEY Oh, Cal. That's just the shits. I'm sorry. CAL It's okay. I'm getting used to the idea. DEWEY Why didn't Patty-Joyce say something? CAL Haven't told her yet. DEWEY Who else have you told? CAL Nobody. DEWEY Nobody? You mean I'm it. CAL Right now. DEWEY You want my kidney? CAL No. No, Dew. I just wanted to practice telling people and I thought I'd start with you.

DEWEY Sure. Sure. I get it. Kind of ease into it, huh?

CAL

Yeah, something like that. Don't tell anyone else okay? I want to do it myself. No second hand talk.

INT. EIGHT-BALL GARAGE - EVENING

Patty-Joyce and Nickie sit on an old automobile bench seat next to a transmission.

Patty-Joyce straightens her panties out and pulls on her jeans while Nickie lights another joint.

He passes it to her.

PATTY-JOYCE What the hell.

She takes a hit and hands it back.

He grabs her ass and strokes her jeans while she slips into her shoes.

NICKIE

Leaving?

PATTY-JOYCE I have to go home some time. This is enough for now.

NICKIE

Enough?

She straddles his lap.

PATTY-JOYCE What are we . . . ? Do you love me?

NICKIE

Of course.

PATTY-JOYCE I'm going to leave Cal.

NICKIE What? You can't. PATTY-JOYCE

I have to.

NICKIE

Why?

PATTY-JOYCE So I can be with you.

NICKIE

You can't be with me. This is only for shits and giggles. We get high, we screw, that's it. Why would you want to mess that up?

PATTY-JOYCE I feel like it's not fair to Cal.

NICKIE

Maybe not. But you know what they say - what you don't know won't hurt you.

PATTY-JOYCE We wouldn't have to sneak around.

NICKIE

P.J. Are you crazy? Of course we would. We're brother and sister. This isn't the kind of relationship you make public. Not like we're going to start living together.

PATTY-JOYCE

Oh.

NICKIE

Hey, look. I know it's weird. Not ever going to try to explain it, understand it. Don't want to. But this is it, P.J. What we got right here - is all we'll ever have.

EXT. KATIE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Glenn sits on his bike. Katie stands beside him.

Katie's Dad watches from the door.

KATIE'S DAD Good night, Glenn. GLENN Good night. Thank you.

Katie's Dad goes inside.

Katie jumps on the back of the bike and holds on to Glenn.

KATIE

Go!

GLENN Yeah, right. Make me a kidnapper?

KATIE No it wouldn't. I'm serious, let's get the hell out of here.

GLENN I'm not riding you on the bike, Katie.

KATIE What's the point of you having a motorcycle if you're not going to use it to impress your girlfriend?

GLENN That's not the point. Your Dad doesn't want you on this bike. You have to respect that.

Katie gets off the motorcycle.

KATIE Oh, forget you!

GLENN

Katie -

KATIE

No! Forget it Glenn! You're ridiculous, you know that? What happened to you? You used to be tough. Now you don't even drink anymore.

GLENN

So what?

KATIE

My dad doesn't have some magical chain that keeps you from doing what you want to do.

GLENN Neither do you.

KATIE What's that supposed to mean?

GLENN I respect the man. I think you should respect that.

KATIE Aaaaaugh! You suck! You talk like you're fifty years old.

Katie turns and bolts back to the house.

GLENN Katie! Katie! Ka -

The door slams.

GLENN (to self) Thanks for dinner.

The kick starting begins.

INT. MAPLES HOME - EVENING

Patty-Joyce enters the house in the dark.

She flicks on the light.

She jumps, startled, to find Cal alone in the dark.

PATTY-JOYCE Oh God! What are you doing? I didn't see you there.

CAL I know. PJ, you need to sit down.

She sits down, hesitantly.

CAL There's something we need to talk about.

Cal stops and stays quiet for a few moments.

PATTY-JOYCE

What?

I need to tell you something.

Silence again.

PATTY-JOYCE Okay, so are you going to tell me?

CAL Oh yeah. I started dialysis this morning.

PATTY-JOYCE Huh? Say that again?

CAL

I have kidney disease. I need new kidneys. Or just one I guess. But, for now, so I don't die right away, I need dialysis.

PATTY-JOYCE

What? How did this happen? Back up! You were fine this morning. What are you talking about? You have to go to dialysis? Why? How?

CAL You know my backache? It's not my spine. It's my kidneys. Stand up.

They stand together. He touches her back.

CAL

The doctor told me. They're right here. I thought I needed a muscle relaxer or something. But they did a blood test, then they did another blood test. Then a CT scan.

PATTY-JOYCE

A CT scan!

CAL

Yeah, and an ultrasound. It's . . . pretty bad. Without dialysis, I could die.

Patty-Joyce stares at him in disbelief.

CAL

For real.

She hugs him and sobs. INT. FLOWER SHOP - DAY

Caroline works on a floral arrangement. Through the window Caroline sees Glenn wheel up on his motorcycle. He bounds up the steps and flings open the door.

CAROLINE

What's that?

GLENN My birthday present.

CAROLINE From who? Grandpa Dew?

GLENN Dad - and Uncle Nickie.

CAROLINE

Dad? You're kidding. Your grades must be pretty fucking incredible. Going to the funeral?

GLENN

Yeah.

CAROLINE So you want to take some flowers.

GLENN

Flowers? No. It's just early. It's two blocks away. I got no place to go right now. Thought I'd just hang out here. How do you like living in your own apartment now?

CAROLINE

I love it. When are you going to come over?

GLENN

Sometime. I keep thinking that maybe he didn't jump. That he just fell. But he didn't yell or anything, so

CAROLINE

He might have hit his head right away. Wouldn't be able to yell. Wouldn't even know what hit him. (MORE)

CAROLINE(cont'd) Take this. You should take Here. him this. She hands him a rosebud on a stem. EXT. CEMETERY - DAY Daryll's funeral procession courses through the gates. Mourners amble about the casket as the clergy takes center position. In the distance they hear the drone of a motorcycle. Everyone turns to see -The chrome glint of Glenn's motorcycle. His face hidden behind sunglasses. He coasts up and disperses the crowd from his path. He rolls up to the casket and unzips his jacket. Glenn gingerly places the rosebud on top the casket. All of his schoolmates - Tim, Katie, Rader watch and pout. He avoids eye contact with everyone. For a brief moment he places a black gloved hand on the casket. He then throttles up and rolls off a few feet before he bolts away in a furious skid. The wind in his face streams a tear to his ear. EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - MORNING Fall colors. Birds greet the morning with chirps. Glenn parks his bike and takes off his helmet. Katie jumps out of her Dad's truck. Katie's Dad waves to Glenn. Glenn waves back. Katie walks toward Glenn and right past him as he speaks.

51.

GLENN Morning Kate.

She breezes past without looking at him. Glenn jumps off his bike and chases her.

> GLENN Hey! Katie wait!

KATIE I have to get to class.

GLENN Not right this second! Talk to me!

KATIE Just forget it. Don't bother. We don't talk anymore.

She pulls away and goes up the stairs.

Glenn, stunned, stares for a moment, then chases her.

GLENN Since when do we not talk anymore?

She pulls away again and goes through the doorway.

Glenn stands alone on the steps.

Other students walk past him as he stares at the door, confused. The bell rings.

He marches back to his bike and zips off.

EXT. CITY STREETS - MOMENTS LATER

Glenn races through the city. He passes cars.

The speedometer ranges from 60-75 as he flies through a 25 MPH zone.

A police car flashes its lights and blasts the siren.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAYS - DAY

The hallway is empty except for Tim Horvath.

He sits on the floor across from Daryll's locker, decorated with flowers and cards and photos from students.

Katie sees him and approaches quietly.

KATIE

Tim?

He barely glances at her.

TIM HORVATH I know who's fault this is. He never would have jumped if Glenn just didn't treat him like shit all the time.

She sits beside him and leans on his shoulder.

KATIE

I know the feeling. He just doesn't get it. My parents are not his friends - acts like - he doesn't treat people right.

Tim peers at her curiously.

TIM HORVATH Glenn? What did he do to you?

KATIE

Doesn't matter. I'm over it. He's done. We're done. Fuck him.

TIM HORVATH You know what he said to Daryll, don't you?

KATIE

Not really. But I've got an idea. Had to be some mean shit to make Daryll go all Humpty-Dumpty and have a great fall. Oh. Sorry. I think he told him he was going to kick his ass because Daryll was well he was being Daryll. You know how he was. But I don't think he would have jumped if it wasn't for Glenn.

TIM HORVATH

Really?

KATIE

There's only one thing Glenn really understands.

TIM HORVATH What's that?

KATIE Punishment. He knows how to do it. He should know what it feels like.

EXT. CITY STREETS - MOMENTS LATER

Glenn leans beside his bike.

The OFFICER strolls back from his car with Glenn's license and ticket.

OFFICER You're moving a little too quick to let you off with a warning Glenn. Sign this.

GLENN

Okay.

Glenn signs without protest.

OFFICER How's your Dad doing?

GLENN

He's fine.

OFFICER What about you? Staying out of trouble?

GLENN

Yes, sir.

OFFICER Good. About time. Nice bike but you need to take it easy out here.

GLENN

Yes, sir. You're right.

OFFICER

Don't you have school today?

GLENN That's where I'm going. I woke up late. The officer tears the ticket out of the book and hands it to him.

OFFICER Better get going. Tell your Dad I said "Hi".

Glenn reads the ticket as the Officer drives off.

A car pulls up beside him.

DR. MILLER (O.S.)

Glenn?

Glenn sees his psychiatrist, DR. MILLER, 35, long hair, bearded, lean over from the drivers side to talk out the passenger window.

DR. MILLER I thought that was you.

GLENN You were right.

DR. MILLER Was I? What about?

Glenn leans into his window and stoops down to talk.

GLENN About it being me. How are you doing Dr. Miller?

DR. MILLER

I'm doing great, Glenn. But what about you? Thought I might hear from you when I saw the paper, read what happened. You ever feel like talking, you know you can give me a call. Anytime. It's cool.

GLENN

Thanks.

DR. MILLER Is that your motorcycle? It's far out. What's that?

GLENN Speeding ticket.

DR. MILLER Ooh. How fast? GLENN Sixty-seven in a thirty.

DR. MILLER Ouch! Better than jail.

GLENN Say that again.

DR. MILLER Look at it this way. If that's the worst thing that's happened all day, you're having a pretty good day.

GLENN Day's not over yet.

INT. HOSPITAL DIALYSIS WARD - DAY

Patty-Joyce sits curled up in a ball on a chair with a blank stare.

A nurse enters and calls her.

NURSE Patty-Joyce. You can see your husband now. Right this way.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The dialysis machine drains and pumps blood to Cal.

Patty-Joyce focuses on a tube full of blood that protrudes from his leg.

PATTY-JOYCE Does it hurt?

CAL No. The needle hurt, but right now I wouldn't even know it's there if I wasn't looking at it.

PATTY-JOYCE So what happens now?

CAL This is it. Cal stiffens up.

CAL I have to do this every day. Every day. Until I get . . . get a new kidney.

PATTY-JOYCE

Oh, Cal.

CAL They say my best bet is a blood relative. Somebody who would just . . help me. Kind of narrows down the choices of who I can ask.

PATTY-JOYCE

Ask?

CAL Ask for a kidney. That's what they told me to do. Ask a relative.

PATTY-JOYCE (hesitantly) Did you want it from me?

CAL

The way you just said that it doesn't sound like you want to. Besides, we have different blood types. It wouldn't work. I couldn't give you blood when you needed it, remember?

PATTY-JOYCE

Well, it's a - Who else did you think you were going to ask?

CAL

Who else is there? You think I want to ask him? You think I want to tell my son to have surgery and live the rest of his life with one kidney? Of course I don't.

Patty-Joyce pouts, almost cries.

CAL But if I don't ask him . . . PATTY-JOYCE No. You can't. You can't let him.

CAL I know. I can't. I don't want to. I swear, but I know he would do it.

PATTY-JOYCE No. Don't. You can't.

CAL I'm not. We can't let him know about this.

PATTY-JOYCE Are you kidding? We have to tell him.

CAL No! It's not right. We can't put that kind of pressure on him. Not with the playoffs.

PATTY-JOYCE The playoffs? His fucking basketball games? You're more concerned about that than your own life?

CAL No, what I mean is - He's got a future. He could actually get a scholarship. He's the best basketball player in the state. Then what? He donates a kidney and it's all over. If I'm not even going to entertain the idea of taking his kidney, and I'm not, there's no reason he needs to know about this. But, I'll tell you something PJ, right now I am so Goddamned scared, if he said he would do it, I'd take it in a heartbeat.

INT. FLOWER SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Bells chime above the door as he enters. Caroline looks out from the back.

CAROLINE Hey, Glenn. What are you doing here? GLENN Playing hookey.

CAROLINE Come on back. Want some coffee?

Glenn focuses on the coffee pot and searches for a mug.

GLENN

Sure.

Caroline directs him to the shelf above. They talk while she arranges flowers.

CAROLINE Here. Use one of those up there. What happened?

GLENN I think I got dumped.

CAROLINE

You think?

GLENN I guess. Katie said "we don't talk anymore" and just kept on going.

CAROLINE

She didn't say why?

GLENN I wouldn't let her ride on my bike.

CAROLINE

How come?

GLENN Her Dad told me not to.

CAROLINE That's almost chivalrous. So you wouldn't give her a ride?

GLENN Just figured it would be a hassle.

CAROLINE

Ha! A hassle? I know why she dumped you now. Because you're not a bad boy anymore. When's the last time you got in a fight? I don't fight.

CAROLINE

That's why. You used to beat people up. Now you're the strong sensitive type. She wants the bad boy.

GLENN

Bullshit.

CAROLINE

I'm serious. You don't have to believe me, but I'll bet if you ask my psychology professor, that's what he'd say.

GLENN

Bad boy. Great. You know how much therapy I've done to not be that way?

CAROLINE

I know. But your reputation is still out there. You broke that one guys nose. Another guys jaw. Fractured a skull.

GLENN

Okay. So? I stopped. Nobody got killed.

CAROLINE

Nobody?

GLENN I didn't kill him!

CAROLINE

Glenn. Cool. Deep breath. Sorry. That came out the wrong way. Glenn takes a deep breath.

GLENN

I know. Sorry. It's not my fault though.

CAROLINE

I know. But look at everything from the outside for a second.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

The way you were - the way you are now - the suicide note. Again, not your fault. Besides that, they never should have published it.

Caroline gets closer to her brother.

GLENN

Right.

She puts her arms around him like a dance partner and gets too close for a sister. She brushes his hair with her fingers.

CAROLINE You need to get fucked.

GLENN

Huh?

CAROLINE

You need to find some little chick who just wants to have you for a little while and then just leave you alone. Til you get your head together and find some other girl who wants the strong sensitive type who has a handle on his rage. Don't worry about the relationship shit right now. You're too young.

They stand face to face and silent for a long moment until Glenn suddenly tears away from her.

CAROLINE Think I was going to bite you?

GLENN

No.

CAROLINE If you need a sex primer, you can ask me anything.

GLENN Don't go there.

CAROLINE You used to like it.

GLENN That was before. You're my sister.

CAROLINE

Want me to fix you up with somebody? I know a few college girls who could teach you a few things.

GLENN Stop it. Don't talk like that.

CAROLINE

Why?

GLENN It's wrong. Just wrong. Okay?

CAROLINE

Don't be mad.

GLENN

I'm not mad. See you later.

Caroline stands between Glenn and the door. He goes straight for it and she grabs him and hugs him and kisses him on the neck.

CAROLINE

Bye.

Glenn breaks away and runs off.

INT. MAPLES HOME - EVENING

The Maples family eats dinner almost silently. Patty-Joyce breaks the ice.

PATTY-JOYCE So how was school today, Glenn?

GLENN I don't know. I skipped.

CAL

You what?

GLENN Katie and me broke up. So I skipped. Just didn't feel like being there.

PATTY-JOYCE Oh, Glenn.

GLENN Then I got a speeding ticket. CAL On your bike? PATTY-JOYCE Well, he obviously wasn't walking. CAL PJ! Glenn, what is going on with you, son? GLENN (calmly) I told you. I broke up with Katie. Her idea, not mine. I was blowing off steam. I got a ticket. That's it. Sorry. And I saw Dr. Miller, too. Patty-Joyce and Cal look to each other surprised. CAL You went to go see him - on your own? GLENN I saw him out on the street. We talked. I think I want to go see him more often. Like every week. CAL That's fine, Glenn. That's a -PATTY-JOYCE Grown up decision. CAL Yes it is, it's a grown up

Yes it is, it's a grown up decision. If you feel like he's a guy you need to talk to and sort things out. That's good.

PATTY-JOYCE

Yes, it is. But Glenn, you need to be more careful. And you have to go to school, no matter what.

GLENN

I know.

CAL Just . . . blow off steam on the weekends okay?

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAYS - DAY

Glenn opens his locker and sees Katie walk by.

He glares at her.

She ignores him.

He shakes his head but decides to chase her.

GLENN

Katie!

As she rounds the corner out of sight he keeps going and then finds her standing with GREG (17) a handsome young man about a foot taller than Glenn.

Katie leans into him and grasps his arm as Greg wraps it around her chest and shoulders.

The couple stand firm as Glenn approaches.

Greg appears wary.

GLENN What's this?

KATIE This is Greg.

GLENN I know who this is. How's it going Greg?

GREG

Cool.

KATIE I'm going out with Greg now, whether you like it or not.

GLENN Do whatever you want.

The boys nod to each other.

GLENN See you later.

GREG

Later.

Glenn heads back around the corner toward his locker.

Katie appears offended.

A few steps away Tim Horvath opens his locker.

They make eye contact.

Glenn nods.

Tim turns his head.

Glenn almost walks by, but stops.

GLENN

Hi, Tim.

Tim scrutinizes Glenn with contempt.

TIM HORVATH

What?

GLENN Just saying `Hi".

TIM HORVATH You want to see me jump off a cliff, too? Don't say 'Hi' to me. Don't even talk to me. (shouts) I know what you did!

Tim slams his locker and struts off.

Rader and Flynn approach.

RADER Dude, what did Horvath say?

GLENN

Nothing, man.

FLYNN He's pissed about the note, isn't he?

GLENN The note? What note? RADER The suicide note.

Glenn's eyes widen in shock.

GLENN

Say - what?

RADER They found Daryll's suicide note. It was in his locker. He planned it all along man. It's not your fault.

GLENN He wrote a note?

FLYNN Thought you would have heard already.

RADER It was all about you.

I/E. MAPLES MOTORCYCLE DEALERSHIP - DAY

Dewey sucks on a cigar and reads the paper on the bench outside the dealership. He shakes his head in sorry disbelief as he reads.

Nickie coasts onto the gravel and steers up to Dewey's feet.

DEWEY You read about this shit?

Nickie crawls off the bike and sidles up to Dewey to look over his shoulder.

NICKIE

What shit?

DEWEY That kid who jumped off the cliff. Wrote in his suicide note it's Glenn's fault. Said if he ever felt threatened again - he was just going to kill himself - end it all.

Nickie rips the paper from Dewey's hands and gasps at the column.

NICKIE

Fuck.
 (he reads)
Fuck! Cal and P.J. see this?

DEWEY They're not here yet. Too early for Cal. He's coming in late these days.

NICKIE

How come?

DEWEY 'Cause he can. He's the boss.

Nickie scans over the article.

NICKIE That little shit. He was always a goofy fucker.

DEWEY Hard to believe isn't it?

NICKIE Not really. I knew that kid as well as Tim and Glenn. He was always the weird one.

DEWEY Glenn used to beat him up?

NICKIE Glenn beat everybody up.

DEWEY Guess that's true.

NICKIE

But he stopped. Glenn's doing alright these days, isn't he? He seems under control, right?

DEWEY

Well, he's always been good to me, being his Grandpa and everything like that. Besides, if he wasn't, I'd kick his ass.

Nickie hands Dewey the paper and climbs back on his bike.

NICKIE If you see Glenn - tell him he should give me a call. You know, in case there's nobody else he wants to talk to.

DEWEY You mean like that shrink?

NICKIE

I'm cheaper and better than a shrink. I'm his uncle. I give him a beer and he won't get in trouble. That makes a difference.

Dewey snickers and opens the paper again as Nickie rides off.

INT. LUCKY'S CASINO - DAY

Patty-Joyce loses the last of her credits. She furiously pushes the buttons in futile retaliation.

The ATTENDANT looks over at her.

Patty-Joyce marches over to the cage and snaps open her purse.

PATTY-JOYCE I need to cash a check.

ATTENDANT Alright, I just need to see your drivers license.

Patty-Joyce produces the document.

The Attendant compares her name to a list on the wall and sheepishly hands back the check and drivers license.

ATTENDANT Um - I'm sorry, but I can't cash your check.

PATTY-JOYCE

Why not?

ATTENDANT

(whispers)
You're on the list. I guess the
last check you wrote here - didn't
go through - so, I'm not allowed to
cash your check.

Really?

Patty-Joyce appears lost.

ATTENDANT

I'm sorry. I could get fired. Actually, I'm supposed to call the manager when list people are here, but I don't like to do that. But you're always real nice and you tip and stuff. Some people don't even say "Hello". I'm not going to call him on you.

PATTY-JOYCE

Thank you.

ATTENDANT

If you want, I can give you five dollars on one of the nickel machines.

PATTY-JOYCE That's okay. Thanks. I'll see you later.

EXT. LUCKY'S CASINO - CONTINUOUS

Patty-Joyce exits and opens her purse on her bike seat. She opens her bank book. The balance has dwindled down from multiple thousands to hundreds. She silently scolds herself, and mutters something unintelligible, and shoves her purse back together.

She straddles the bike and looks up to see a sign.

INSERT SIGN: THE DOLL'S DEN - Now Hiring Dancers.

She checks herself out in the rear view mirror.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - DAY

The Timberwolves practice.

A flurry of activity at both baskets, rubber soled shoes screech on the floor as they run drills.

Coach Jeff blasts the whistle and calls time out.

COACH JEFF Okay guys, everybody take ten, then get ready for relays! Maples! Come talk to me once.

Glenn trots over to the bench as the coach takes a seat.

GLENN

What's up?

COACH JEFF You know who was at the game the other night?

Glenn shakes his head.

COACH JEFF

Scouts. Recruiters from two state colleges. These guys were both at the last two games and they're watching somebody on this team. I'd bet that somebody is you.

GLENN

Really?

COACH JEFF Has anyone contacted you yet?

GLENN

No.

COACH JEFF You keep scoring thirty points a game and they will. But when they do you need to be ready.

GLENN

Ready? How?

COACH JEFF Ready to answer their questions when they ask about that suicide note.

Glenn shakes his head.

GLENN Oh, come on. You too?

COACH JEFF Maples. Listen. That shit doesn't matter to me. (MORE)

COACH JEFF(cont'd)

I'm just letting you know. When the time comes - be prepared. Don't go cocking your head sideways and getting bitchy with the attitude like you are right now. You can't react that way. Okay?

GLENN

Okay.

COACH JEFF Okay. Just be cool.

GLENN

I don't even understand why anybody would need to ask me about that.

COACH JEFF

Colleges want to make sure they're not bringing in any bad influences.

GLENN

I'm not a bad influence.

COACH JEFF

Glenn - right there, see what you're doing? That's the kind of shit I'm talking about. They're going to say things like that and you need to be prepared. That's all I'm saying.

GLENN

Okay. I know. You're right. Sorry. I'm working on it.

COACH JEFF Good. You keep your nose clean and you'll get a scholarship, trust me.

INT. MAPLES MOTORCYCLE DEALERSHIP - DAY

Cal sits and tumbles a pencil in his hand.

Patty-Joyce walks right past him.

CAL

Patty-Joyce.

She goes into the adjacent office and turns on the light.

Cal painfully stumbles to his feet.
Patty-Joyce. We need to talk.

She sticks her head in and disappears again.

PATTY-JOYCE

So talk.

He stands and goes to the other office door.

Patty-Joyce fumbles through a file cabinet.

CAL

PJ! What happened to the money?

PATTY-JOYCE I don't want to talk about it.

CAL

You don't want to talk about it? What did you do with \$80,000?

PATTY-JOYCE

Nothing.

CAL

Nothing? No. Nothing is not an answer. You took all the money out of the business account. There's nothing left. I can't make payroll tomorrow.

PATTY-JOYCE

Sorry.

CAL Sorry? Sweetheart - the bulk of our whole life savings is missing. What's going on?

PATTY-JOYCE I can't talk about it.

CAL

Why? What happened? What's so bad that you can't talk to me?

PATTY-JOYCE

About what? Dialysis? Oh wait! No, that's off limits! We can't tell anybody about that!

She gets louder.

Dewey and Beverly look over from across the showroom.

CAL

PJ!

PATTY-JOYCE Oh, sorry. Can't talk about your impending death! I forgot.

CAL Don't change the subject. I just don't need that right now. I don't want to think about that, okay?

PATTY-JOYCE Okay! Don't think. Just - do what you do.

CAL What does that mean?

PATTY-JOYCE

Just keep doing nothing. That's what's going to help, isn't it? Just ignore the problem and it'll go away. Oh, and don't tell anybody, especially Glenn, whatever you do. Don't tell your son.

Patty-Joyce pushes past Cal.

He stops her.

CAL PJ! Stop. Where is all our money?

PATTY-JOYCE

I took it.

CAL I know you took it. Where did you take it to?

PATTY-JOYCE Are you going to tell Glenn?

CAL Glenn? I don't know. Why? Tell Glenn what?

PATTY-JOYCE About your kidneys, your dialysis. CAL Stop changing the subject and tell me what you did with \$80,000 of our money!

She rips away from him.

CAL Where are you going?

PATTY-JOYCE

I'm moving out. I need to go. I can't live this way any more. And it doesn't matter what you tell Glenn. You can't have his kidney. He can't save you. And I can't watch you die.

CAL

Glenn is not your son.

So you're just going to go? Leave? And take all the money and - and just leave? Just go? Just like that? No explanation?

PATTY-JOYCE I am explaining. Listen. Listen carefully. I have to go now. I have to tell you something too. This is going to sound weird, but

Cal stumbles.

PATTY-JOYCE He never was. I should have said something, but - goodbye Cal.

CAL Wait! What - Who are you all of a sudden? What are you saying?

PATTY-JOYCE I'm leaving now. And . . . I'm sorry.

She walks out of the office and hastens past Dewey.

DEWEY Sweetheart? You okay?

She runs out the door.

Cal, speechless, looks toward the window and watches helplessly as she climbs on her bike.

A duffel bag tied on back.

She rides away and doesn't look back.

Dewey waves lightly to Beverly to be cool.

Beverly steps off.

Dewey leans into Cal's office.

DEWEY Hey chief, you okay?

Cal can't speak.

DEWEY

Whatever's going on, it'll work out. Women get screwy, you know that. So don't worry about it. Okay? Okay?

CAL (devastated, confused) Okay.

DEWEY

Atta boy. I sure raised a wild one with her, and you're the lucky chum who gets to ask the ultimate question.

CAL What ultimate question?

DEWEY The one we all ask when the wife

walks out - What the hell is she thinking?

CAL That's exactly what I'm thinking alright.

Dewey gives Cal a wink.

DEWEY It'll work out.

CAL Dewey, what is she up to? DEWEY Being a woman, I guess.

CAL No - Dew- she took eighty grand out of the bank and spent it.

DEWEY

On what?

CAL You got me. If I wasn't in tremendous physical pain right now, I'd chase her down and find out. Do you know anything about it?

DEWEY

No.

CAL Dewey, we got real problems now. Real serious fucking problems.

INT. DOCTOR MILLERS OFFICE - AFTERNOON

A den crowded with books strewn about and clumsily stacked records has only two mismatched chairs opposite one another. Dr. Miller and Glenn sit face to face.

GLENN

It's like I've got a knot in my forehead. Right here. Like a golf ball or a D-cell battery. There's no other way to describe it. Just a lump of pain. It's annoying more than anything else. I took that headache medicine. Guess it went away for a while. But it doesn't stop.

DR. MILLER You're describing a migraine.

GLENN Okay. How do I stop it?

DR. MILLER

Can't. They have to leave your body. It'll go when it's done. That's the way it works - if it's a migraine. GLENN What else could it be? A brain tumor.

DR. MILLER

(chuckles)

Glenn, I'm sure you don't have a brain tumor. You're just stressed. Look at what's going on around you. Your best friend committed suicide. Your girlfriend met somebody else. Now, how does Glenn move on? What's in your future? What do you want from your future? Focus on that.

GLENN The only time I can really focus is out on the court.

INSERT: BASKETBALL GAME

Slow motion. Glenn commands the court. He moves past the opposing team passing the ball and retrieving it with ease and grace. Revelers in the crowded auditorium stand and cheer silently. Glenn slips past the defense and jumps up to score a basket.

GLENN (V.O.)

When I'm there - it's all about the ball. Just take it to the hole and that's it. Nothing else matters. The other players, getting past them, picking up a pass, I know what to do. Even with a hundred people around, I can't even hear anything. Like I'm deaf. The ball is like an extension of my body. And it's me and the ball and the basket and nothing else.

As the ball slips through the basket and his feet land on the floor, now audible, the crowd screams exuberantly.

Glenn leans forward to engage Dr. Miller.

GLENN

But then, everywhere else - I just don't know what to do. There's no plan. Nothing makes any God damned sense. I mean what do you do next? What am I supposed to do when I'm not playing basketball?

DR. MILLER

What do you want to do?

GLENN

I don't know. I want to know how the world works. How am I supposed to know what to do next? I mean, you go to school, graduate, or something. How do you decide what to do when you don't know what you want to do? Did Daryll have it right? I mean, is it all just pointless? Because everybody dies anyway. How do you decide to jump off a cliff? How did he do that? I wouldn't jump off a ten foot wall, myself. I know he said he didn't want to get picked on and all that. And that was my fault. And maybe, if I was nicer - before he wouldn't have. If I was just nicer.

DR. MILLER

You told me you don't believe he really wrote that letter. Have you changed your mind?

GLENN

No. He didn't write that letter. I don't think he did. But it did sound like something he would have said.

DR. MILLER

Who knows Daryll as well as you do? Who could take his deepest thoughts and put them on paper so that people would believe Daryll wrote it? You really believe somebody else would take the time to write a fake suicide note?

GLENN

Yes.

DR. MILLER That's curious. Who would do such a terrible thing? And why? Tim Horvath stands on the edge of the cliff.

He unfolds a newspaper from his pocket and sits down to read.

INSERT: NEWSPAPER

HEADLINE POLICE RELEASE SUICIDE NOTE

TEXT

. . . told how he was repeatedly beaten by the classmate and lifelong friend, saying "So don't be surprised when I do it. I just don't want to live any more. If my best friend doesn't even like me, why would anybody else like me? I know that the world doesn't need me. There is no real point in being alive because everybody dies anyway."

Inside the car, parked behind him, Katie watches him. She unlatches the door and steps out. She walks up beside Tim.

KATIE Why do you keep coming back here?

TIM HORVATH Because I can't believe it. You saw him jump?

KATIE No. We weren't looking this way. Somebody else saw him, they screamed. We all came over here and looked down. You couldn't see him. It was too dark.

TIM HORVATH So what now?

KATIE What - what now?

TIM HORVATH

Doesn't look like Glenn is going to get into any trouble. Kind of makes the note insignificant now, doesn't it?

KATIE

No. It proves to the world what kind of a person Glenn Maples really is. He's a bully, and now everybody knows it.

TIM HORVATH So what kind of people are we?

KATIE

The kind who expose people like him. Don't worry. Nobody's ever going to find out we wrote it.

TIM HORVATH

Can't believe I did that to my cousin.

KATIE

You didn't do anything to him. He did it to himself. Just don't talk about it. Okay?

Tim stares blankly into the canyon.

KATIE

Okay?

TIM HORVATH Okay. I won't say anything.

KATIE You better not. Not ever.

INT. MAPLES HOME - EVENING

Cal sits and stares blankly at the TV news.

Glenn pops through the front door and glides past the TV.

GLENN

Hey, Dad.

CAL

Ηi.

Glenn reaches the kitchen and turns back.

GLENN Where's Mom? Is she bringing home take out or something? It's late. Sit down with me here, Glenn.

Glenn sits down on the stool across from Cal.

GLENN What's going on?

CAL

I just want to look at you for a second.

Cal stares at Glenn. He studies his face, eyes, teeth.

Cal looks like he has a terrible headache.

GLENN Something wrong?

Cal sighs and stares at Glenn.

CAL I don't know if wrong is the right word now.

GLENN Where's Mom?

CAL

(breaks down, cries) She left! She went away. She said she doesn't want to be here anymore.

GLENN Mom left? Where? Where did she go?

CAL

She didn't tell me. She said she had to go, she needed a change. She left me all alone! She just left. It doesn't make sense! She said she was finished with me. Like it was just over. She told me at the shop. She already had a bag packed. She just went!

GLENN

Where!

CAL I don't know. I really don't know. GLENN

She probably went to Aunt Betty's. She did that before, right? Here, let me call her. What's her number?

Glenn reaches for the phone directory.

Cal snatches the book out of his hand and shouts.

CAL Don't you get it, Glenn. She left us! US! She left us.

INT. NICKIE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Patty-Joyce stands inside the front door with her duffel bag.

NICKIE What the fuck? Just ready to complicate the shit out of our lives aren't you? Well, you're here, so . . . pick a drawer.

INT. NICKIE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Patty-Joyce and Nickie curl up together in bed.

Nickie lights a joint and passes it to Patty-Joyce and she tokes it.

They hear a thud outside the door.

NICKIE

Tim?

TIM HORVATH (O.C.)

Yeah?

NICKIE Where you going?

TIM HORVATH (O.C.)

Out.

NICKIE

Okay.

They hear a door slam.

Patty-Joyce passes the joint back to Nickie.

EXT. NICKIE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tim slogs down the steps as Glenn rides up on his bike. Glenn revs the throttle once.

INT. NICKIE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Nickie's eyes widen and he bolts up. He listens to the engine flutter to a halt.

NICKIE

Glenn's here.

EXT. NICKIE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tim saddles his bike as Glenn dismounts his.

TIM HORVATH Time to go kick the shit out of the Mustangs.

Tim starts his bike with a key and roars off.

Glenn glances forlornly at his kick start.

GLENN (to self) Good talking with you.

INT. NICKIE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Glenn steps through the door to find Nickie in the front room to greet him.

NICKIE Hi Glenn. I'm getting a beer. Want one?

Nickie turns away to the kitchen.

GLENN

No thanks.

A few steps later, Nickie returns with a beer in hand.

Glenn looks around the mess of bike parts and trash that adorn the home.

NICKIE What brings you here?

GLENN Came to see Tim.

NICKIE You just missed him.

GLENN I know. You heard from my Mom?

NICKIE Your Mom? She's here. Patty-Joyce!

Patty-Joyce steps around the corner.

GLENN Mom? What are you doing here?

PATTY-JOYCE Just hanging out.

GLENN Wouldn't you rather be home?

PATTY-JOYCE Not today. What are you doing here, anyway?

GLENN I came to see Tim. Dad says you moved out.

Nickie sits down at the table. He sips his beer and hands one to Patty-Joyce. She waves it away.

> PATTY-JOYCE No. We had a little fight. It's nothing. He's blowing it all out of proportion.

GLENN Where did you stay last night?

PATTY-JOYCE Here. I'll be home tonight. I just needed some time alone. A time out, so to speak.

GLENN Time out? PATTY-JOYCE Yes. Sometimes people just need a time out.

GLENN So you'll be home tonight?

PATTY-JOYCE I said I will, why - do you not believe it?

GLENN I believe it.

PATTY-JOYCE So I'll see you tonight.

GLENN Are you going to come to the game?

PATTY-JOYCE

Tonight?

GLENN Two hours. It's finals. We play the Mustangs. Division game.

PATTY-JOYCE Well, I'll be there.

GLENN

Really?

PATTY-JOYCE Glenn, what's with you? Why so doubtful?

Patty-Joyce takes Nickie's second beer away and chugs it.

GLENN So you'll be there?

PATTY-JOYCE I said I would and I will.

NICKIE How's that scooter treating you?

GLENN It's far out. Great bike.

NICKIE Don't make them like that anymore. PATTY-JOYCE Is there something you need Glenn?

GLENN What's that supposed to mean?

PATTY-JOYCE I just wondered if there was something you needed.

Glenn shakes his head and steps back to the door.

GLENN

I just need something normal. I need you to see me play. I need you to be home. I need Dad to stop crying.

NICKIE

Your Dad - he's a good guy. Sensitive, you know. That must be where you get it from. Caring what other people think. Doing it your way - like when you wouldn't drink that elk blood.

GLENN

See what I mean about normal? What the fuck is wrong with you people?

Glenn slams the door open and bounces down the stairs.

NICKIE You know you're supposed to drink the blood.

Patty-Joyce and Nickie listen to his bike start in a single kick and the drone of the tailpipe as he zips away.

PATTY-JOYCE Fuck. I am so fucking high.

NICKIE

(sings) I would not feel so all alone everybody must get stoned.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL ARENA - NIGHT

The Timberwolves play basketball.

Glenn, from the middle of the court, spots Patty-Joyce on the sidelines.

A break in the action.

He goes to her and hugs her.

PATTY-JOYCE

Glenn.

GLENN It's about time. Games almost over.

COACH JEFF (O.C.)

Maples!

GLENN Second coach! Mom, can you just sit down and wait until the end of the game? We got ten minutes.

COACH JEFF (O.C.) Maples! Let's rock and roll!

GLENN Mom, I have to go. Just wait for me. Ten minutes.

The whistle blows. The teams dash into formation for the ball tip.

Glenn scans the crowd to see Patty-Joyce walk out of the arena.

The Announcer's keen eye fixed on the game.

ANNOUNCER Timberwolves take control and move across the half court line.

The Timberwolves furiously block and defend their territory.

The Announcer details the action on court.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.) Flynn fending off Domenech, he passes to Maples. Maples dribbles the ball up court with only six and a half minutes remaining on the clock. The Mustangs are playing tough defense, leaving no opening for Maples.

(MORE)

ANNOUNCER(cont'd)

Looks like Rader is wide open. Maples is trapped, he pivots from side to side with nowhere to go. The Mustangs are pushing to the -Holy Cow! Maples just knocked Conrad to the floor!

GLENN

Back off!

Lanky CONRAD, 16, wipes his mouth and looks up at Glenn.

CONRAD

What's your fucking problem man?

Glenn balls his fist and connects with Conrad's jaw. Conrad drops to his knees and Glenn pulls Conrad by his jersey into the punches. The Timberwolves rush to pull Glenn off CONRAD.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

The whistle blows and we have a serious time out. It looks like Maples caught him with an elbow but I'm not so sure it looked like an accident. This is not going to be good for the Timberwolves. Glenn Maples is - Holy Cow! He punched Conrad again. What a mess! He's pummelling the boy. What a mess! This is going to cost the Timberwolves some free throws.

Coach Jeff drops his clipboard and dives onto the court.

COACH JEFF Maples! Over here! Now!

Coach Jeff gets in Glenn's face and scolds him.

Mustang teammates and coaches surround Conrad, now out cold.

Glenn scans the crowd. Patty-Joyce is gone.

He hears only his heartbeat unaware of Coach Jeff's verbal reprimand.

EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Cal and Glenn step outside and shuffle to the car a few feet away. Glenn walks a few paces before Cal.

Cal moves stiffly. He hands the keys to Glenn.

Glenn. Wait up son. I can't move that fast. Here. Drive me.

Cal goes to the passenger door and starts inside.

Glenn sees him struggle and dashes around the car to help him.

GLENN

Dad! Here.

Cal takes his arm as leverage and settles into the seat.

CAL

Thank you.

Glenn closes the door and hops around the other side to drive.

GLENN Thanks for coming to get me. Sorry.

CAL It's alright.

GLENN You're not mad?

CAL

Life's too short to get mad, Glenn. Just not worth it. You're young. You've got a temper. Someday, you'll figure it out. And if you do it before you wind up in a prison cell for the rest of your life, you'll be glad you did. I'm not going to lecture you. You know why you got arrested?

GLENN 'Cause I punched a guy.

CAL

So don't do that anymore. That's the only lesson you can really learn from all this isn't it? So, anyway, how was the game?

Glenn starts the car and drives.

GLENN

We won. Now we play for the State Title. If I'm still on the team.

CAL

That's great! You're going to play for the State Championship. That's big! Sorry I couldn't go. My back.

GLENN Mom was there.

CAL Did she say anything?

GLENN

No. She only stuck around for a second and then she was gone. She said she would come home tonight.

CAL

She did?

GLENN

Oh, yeah. Saw her at Tim and Nickie's. She stayed there last night.

CAL

Oh, thank God. That's a load off. I wondered where she was. Can't get in any trouble staying at her brothers.

GLENN

Which piece of the puzzle is missing here? What is it I'm not seeing?

Glenn glares at Cal.

CAL What do you mean?

GLENN

You're hiding something. I know something's going on, Dad. I want you to be serious with me for a minute. CAL

Listen to you. Mr. Grown-Up. Fresh out of the pokey and you're ready to be serious. Okay - shoot.

GLENN I don't know what you guys think I don't need to know, but . . . I need to know.

Cal smiles a silly grin at a loss for words.

GLENN

You know what you're doing to me? You're freaking me out. It's crazy, man! I don't even know why I'm here. I just won a major playoff game and I ended up in jail. I scored 40 points! I should be out at the falls. But then Daryll goes and jumps off the edge so we can't do that anymore. And now that's supposed to be my fault. I don't get it! I just don't get it. Nothing makes sense. You - Mom? Katie? Tim. My own cousin won't talk to me. I mean . . . shit. I need to know what's going on here. Why is it that all of a sudden I feel like an orphan?

CAL I don't know pal. I guess that's what growing up and becoming a man is all about.

They arrive at

EXT. MAPLES HOME - CONTINUOUS

Glenn wheels the car into the driveway. The lights blink off and Glenn skips around to help Cal out of the car. Cal stands on his own.

> CAL I'm good. I can walk.

Glenn backs off and opens the front door for him.

GLENN Hey, Dad? You mind if I take the car right now? CAL Where you going to go?

GLENN Take a drive. Be alone.

CAL Yeah, that's fine. No drinking? No fights?

GLENN

No, sir.

CAL Every time I hear you say "sir" like that I know you're serious so, go ahead. Be careful.

INT. CAROLINE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A knock at the door. VICKI, 20, tall, thin, brunette, sandwich in mouth, answers the door to a startled Glenn. She eats the entire scene.

> VICKI Hello. Can I help you?

GLENN Is Caroline here? I'm her brother.

VICKI Oh, hi! Come in. I know you from your picture. I'm Vicki.

A Maples family photo sits on a counter.

GLENN

Hi.

VICKI Caroline will be back any minute. She just went to the store. You want a sandwich?

The small apartment ushers them into the kitchen.

GLENN

No, Thanks.

VICKI How about a beer?

GLENN Sure. Wait - no. No, that's alright. VICKI You sure? GLENN It's cool. VICKI Is it because you're an athlete? GLENN No, I just don't want a beer. VICKI Pop? GLENN Sure. She opens a Coke for him. VICKI You going to get a basketball scholarship? I heard you're a good player. GLENN I kind of doubt that. I got suspended. VICKI Suspended for what? GLENN Punching a guy. He got in the way. I got pissed. Stupid. So I have to sit out the next game. Which sucks because I still have to be there in uniform and on the bench but then I don't get to play, so it's a waste of time for me to just be there. VICKI What happened to the guy you punched?

> GLENN Nothing. He's not in trouble.

VICKI

No, I mean what happened to him, like did he get hurt?

GLENN

Well, at first, he landed on his ass. Then, I don't know why, I jumped him. I just pounded the shit out of him. For just a split second - I think I could have killed him. Might have broke his nose.

Glenn chugs his Coke.

VICKI

Really think you would have killed him? I mean, I know you said that just now, it just came out, but do you really mean that?

GLENN Why would you ask me that?

She taps a psychology text book that sits on the counter between them.

VICKI

It's interesting. Were you serious just now, when you said that?

A long moment passes before Glenn answers.

GLENN

I think so. Yeah. Definitely. I just wanted to kill him. Right there in front of a stadium full of people. I don't think I would have stopped if they didn't pull me off. Didn't even matter who he was. Now I don't even know why I did it.

VICKI That's fascinating. Seriously, it is. I'm far out into this. It really didn't matter who he was?

GLENN

Who are you?

VICKI

Vicki. I'm a friend of Caroline's. I'm studying people who kill. Especially the mass shooters.

GLENN

What's a mass shooter?

VICKI

They kill without regard for what they're shooting at, like if people were just bottles on a fence post, and they're firing a BB gun. One day, they just snap. It's amazing.

GLENN

Snap? How?

VICKI

Nobody knows for sure. There was that guy, the janitor at Cal State. Shot nine people, killed seven.

GLENN

Why?

VICKI

No clue. Killed himself last. Shot his wife and his mother and then brought the gun to school. The guy in Austin had a brain tumor. Did you hear about that?

GLENN

No.

VICKI That was at the University of Texas. He killed fourteen people. Oh, he also killed his mother and his wife first. Crazy shit, huh?

So, you hunt?

Glenn appears puzzled.

GLENN

Huh?

Caroline pops open the door and arrives with a small bag of groceries.

CAROLINE I thought I saw our car out there. What's up?

GLENN Do you know where Mom is?

EXT. THE DOLLS DEN - CONTINUOUS

A flashing light advertises topless dancers.

INT. THE DOLL'S DEN - MOMENTS LATER

Patty-Joyce dances bare-breasted on the brass pole.

Men stuff dollars into her g-string.

INT. MAPLES HOME - MORNING

Glenn stands at the refrigerator and pours juice. He hears Cal in the distance.

GLENN Dad, you want coffee?

He hears a thump and a thud in the other room.

GLENN

Dad?

Cal lies on the floor at the bottom of the stairs and struggles to rise.

Glenn rushes to lift him.

GLENN Did you fall down the stairs?

CAL Just the last couple. I'm okay. I just got the wind knocked out of me, that's all.

GLENN

Sit down.

CAL Aaaah! My back, my back! Glenn rushes in and back out of the kitchen and brings juice.

GLENN

Drink this.

Cal sets the juice aside and winces.

CAL I don't know what I'd do without you, Glenn. Bring me the phone, will you pal?

Glenn retrieves the phone and pulls the cord through the room.

CAL I need to call Bev and Dewey. I can't work today.

GLENN

Dad, have you thought about seeing another chiropractor? I mean, this guy is not making you better. You go there every morning and you just seem to get worse. Did they give you any pain pills?

CAL Glenn, just don't worry about that

okay? Just go to school.

GLENN School can wait. You need me to drive you? They'll understand if I'm late, driving you to a doctor.

Cal struggles to stand and staggers across the room.

CAL No. It's cool. It's - groovy, man? Isn't that the hip way to talk, now?

GLENN Yeah. Groovy.

CAL I'm fine. GLENN

Okay. You want me to make you coffee?

CAL Just go to school.

EXT. CITY STREETS - MORNING

Glenn on his bike sees Patty-Joyce on her bike pull out in front of him from the left.

He races up to her.

GLENN Mom! Pull over! Stop! Are you going to talk to me, or what?

She looks anxious, but stops.

She nods to the coffee shop across the street.

PATTY-JOYCE Go for a donut?

Glenn rolls across the street, Patty-Joyce follows.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

They sit in a booth.

GLENN

You said you'd come home a week ago. Why didn't you? Where have you been? I need to know. I need to know right now.

PATTY-JOYCE That's complicated.

GLENN

Confuse me.

PATTY-JOYCE It's not you Glenn. Honey, I swear. Don't think that. It's just irreconcilable differences.

We just haven't been getting along. You know? Kind of like how you broke up with Katie.

GLENN

Don't give me that. Katie's a juvenile delinquent who can't handle a guy who's got his shit together.

PATTY-JOYCE

And that's you? You're skipping school.

GLENN

Right now, yeah, because I had to chase down my Mother, the ghostrider. How are you supporting yourself?

PATTY-JOYCE

Don't you ask me questions about what I do. That's none of your business.

GLENN

None of my business? I'm your son! You feed me every day for seventeen years and then you just vanish? What the hell, Mom? None of my business?

PATTY-JOYCE

No!

GLENN It damn well is my goddamned business! If I'm not supposed to see you again, I want to know why.

Cafe customers turn to look.

WAITRESS

Is there a problem over here?

PATTY-JOYCE

No problem. Keep your voice down, honey.

GLENN

Are you a fucking robot from the Twilight Zone? Is this the way it's going to be now? I get old, you get weird and Dad goes into convulsions? PATTY-JOYCE He had convulsions?

GLENN No! He's in pain. His back hurts.

PATTY-JOYCE Did he tell you why?

GLENN A bad back is a bad back. Right?

PATTY-JOYCE Ask him if he went to see a specialist.

GLENN Did he? Is that what this is about? What's the problem with his back?

PATTY-JOYCE I think you need to hear it from him.

EXT. CORNER OF D STREET - NIGHT

Rader and Glenn sit in Rader's car and spy on the neighborhood.

Glenn has binoculars he looks through periodically.

RADER

Can I ask you something? What's that like? That therapy?

GLENN Just a lot of questions. More questions you ask, more questions you get. Then you just see things . . . a little different. That's all.

RADER Remember how we used to kill rats? Out there in the hay?

FLASHBACK - HAY FIELDS - SUNNY DAY

Two boys silhouetted against the sun bash at the ground with huge clubs.

His lips read "DIE! DIE!"

RADER (V.O.)

You killed so many. Bashing them with that stick. So much blood they stuck to it. You used to yell at 'em "Die!" That was crazy. Weird that we did that. Sometimes I think God is going to get us for that. You ever talk about that?

EXT. CORNER OF D STREET - CONTINUOUS

Glenn shouts back to silence Rader.

GLENN

No.

RADER

Sorry.

GLENN Thanks for doing this. She'd spot me a mile away on my bike.

RADER

Not a problem. But what's the deal now? We're going to follow your old lady somewhere?

GLENN

Right.

RADER

Where?

GLENN Wherever she goes.

RADER How do you know we're going to see her?

GLENN

I don't.

RADER So if we don't, then what?

GLENN

Then we don't.

Rader sees somebody down the street.

RADER

Is that her?

Two blocks away a motorcycle moves out of a driveway and heads toward them.

Glenn squints through the binoculars.

GLENN Damn, you've got good eyes. Maybe. Start the car.

They wait and watch.

GLENN If she turns, just go.

RADER She's coming this way.

GLENN

Get down.

They duck as the bike goes by.

GLENN

Go!

EXT. CITY STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Rader backs up into a driveway and turns around. He follows at a distance.

GLENN Don't lose her. She drives fast.

They follow the bike for a few minutes.

The bike rolls in to The Doll's Den parking lot.

Rader watches and tracks the rider's movements.

GLENN Where did she go?

RADER Behind the building. I'm watching. They drive around the back of the building and see a bike parked there.

Rader drives up to Patty-Joyce's motorcycle and stops. Glenn broods.

> RADER This is a titty bar.

> > GLENN

No shit.

RADER Is that her bike?

GLENN Fuck! Drive man. Just go.

Rader pulls away and they drive. Glenn pounds the dashboard with his fist.

RADER

Maples!

Pounds the dashboard.

GLENN Dammit! Fuck! Son of a bitch!

RADER Maples! Mellow out!

Rader pulls the car over. Glenn seethes with contempt.

GLENN If you tell anyone! I will beat your ass fucking bloody!

Rader points at him.

RADER

Mellow out, man.

Glenn lunges and Rader efficiently subdues him. Rader twists his arms into a knot.

GLENN Motherfucker!

RADER Maples! I am a fucking red belt! You know what that means? (MORE)

RADER(cont'd)

It means I can whip your ass from here to eight ways to Sunday. So chill the fuck out.

Rader waits for Glenn to relax his arms and releases him.

GLENN

Sorry.

RADER Tell your therapist.

INT. MAPLES HOME - NIGHT

Cal moves slowly, painfully across the kitchen and makes a cup of tea.

He looks at a prescription bottle and reads the label that says "Take With Food".

He opens the cabinet and sees potato chips and soup.

Opens the refrigerator.

Nearly empty.

When he closes it he sees a photo, pinned by a magnet, of himself, Patty-Joyce and Glenn smiling and happy.

In the photo, Glenn is twelve years old and stands beside a dirt bike holding a helmet.

FLASHBACK

Cal remembers that day.

Cal and Glenn (12) sit on their bikes, helmets on, side by side.

They look at an open farm road.

CAL You have to remember to sweep the road.

They ride in side by side formation.

They stop.

Cal kicks a rock off the road.

CAL (V.O.) Always sweep the road. You drive for a mile or two, nice and slow. Look for debris. Anything big, rocks, stuff like that. Kick it out of the way. Make sure your road is a clean slate. Go back to your start line and then you open it up.

They race at higher speeds.

A speedometer registers between 50 - 60 MPH.

Glenn smiles.

Cal smiles back.

INT. MAPLES HOME - NIGHT

Cal smiles again and kisses the photo.

EXT. BILL'S HAMBURGER STAND - LATER

A line at the take-out window. Carhops run food.

Glenn and Rader sit on a picnic bench near the line. They eat burgers and fries.

Katie hops in the back of the line with Greg.

Rader makes eye contact with Katie, then watches Glenn's vacant reaction.

Katie and Greg notice Glenn at the same time.

Katie gets touchy with Greg and hangs on to him, then reaches up to kiss him. She stops and puts on a show.

> KATIE Oh. Hello, Glenn. I didn't see you there.

Glenn and Rader sit calmly on the bench, food in hand.

Glenn responds loud enough for everyone to hear, since they are only 10 feet apart.

GLENN Yes, you did. GREG Good game the other night. Except for the fight.

The crowd in line turns to listen.

GLENN

Am I supposed to respond to that? Is there something you want? Or do you just want me to notice that Katie's got her hand on your cock? It might surprise you, but I have more important concerns than who she fucks.

People in line gasp and turn away.

Katie lost and confused runs off.

GREG

What's your problem, Maples?

Glenn tosses his food aside and two huge steps later pounds Greg furiously against the sidewalk.

Rader jumps up to aid Greg. Before he can get there Glenn kicks Greg in the face.

Rader pulls Glenn away and locks Glenn's arm into his back to subdue him.

RADER

Maples!

Restaurant patrons assist a bloodied nosed Greg to his knees.

INT. MAPLES HOME - NIGHT

Cal sits stiffly in a lounge chair in front of the TV.

Glenn walks in.

CAL How's it going? GLENN Are you okay?

CAL I'm fine. I just took some of those painkillers, so I'm slow. (MORE) CAL(cont'd) I'm just - Hey, what did you do tonight?

Glenn's shoulders tense up as he thinks about

FLASHBACK

Patty-Joyce's motorcycle at the Doll's Den. Kicking Greg.

INT. MAPLES HOME - CONTINUOUS

Glenn calms down before speaking.

GLENN Had a burger.

CAL

That's good, cause - well, pretty soon one of us needs to learn how to grocery shop.

GLENN

And cook.

Glenn sits down.

CAL I can cook. I'm a good cook. I'm practically a chef.

GLENN

I saw Mom today.

CAL You did? Where?

GLENN I was driving downtown. So was she. This time we talked.

CAL Where is she staying?

GLENN At Uncle Nickie's.

CAL

Still? Why would she still be at her brother's? Glenn. I'm glad you're here. I - well it may be the drugs talking right now, but, I love you Glenn.
GLENN

Yeah, I know. Same here.

CAL

Did she say what she's doing? Anything? I mean, what is her deal? Is she working somewhere?

GLENN

(hesitates) I don't know. Maybe. She told me to ask you about your back.

CAL What about it?

GLENN How did you hurt it?

CAL

Just lifting things. Pushing those sleds around, boy. That'll do it. My back wasn't meant for - you know I'm not like Rocky or something, I'm just your average guy. You're an athlete, I'm not. But boy, you slip one disk and you'll now what I'm talking about.

GLENN Do you need surgery?

CAL Surgery? No.

GLENN Mom said you need some kind of surgery.

CAL Well, she's - crazy - I don't need surgery. No sir.

GLENN Okay. You want anything?

Glenn gets up and starts toward the kitchen.

CAL Nothing I can think of. Maybe some crackers? Cheese crackers? INT. MAPLES HOME - THE NEXT DAY

Glenn walks into the living room to find Cal asleep in the chair. He looks at him curiously.

GLENN

Dad?

He shakes him by the shoulder.

GLENN Are you alive?

Cal wakes.

CAL

Huh?

GLENN How you feeling?

CAL

I'm okay.

GLENN Okay, you want me to make coffee? I have to go to school in a minute.

CAL Coffee? No. Oh - school! Oh, man, I'm late again.

Cal tries to get up defeated by agonizing pain.

CAL Oooooow! Oh-oh!

GLENN What do you need? A pill?

CAL I'll be alright, you just go to school.

GLENN You sure don't look alright. Do you want me to call somebody?

CAL No. Stop with the interrogation already and go to school. (MORE) CAL(cont'd) Just bring me the phone. And the phone book.

GLENN I'll dial it. What am I looking for?

CAL Never mind. Just bring me the phone.

GLENN I can do it.

CAL I said never mind! Just bring me the phone!

GLENN

Alright, here!

Glenn brings the phone and Cal snatches it out of his hand.

CAL

And the phone book!

Glenn grabs the phone book that was next to the phone and drops it in Cal's lap, almost knocking the phone out of his hand.

GLENN Here! I'm going to school.

Glenn rushes out the door.

CAL Have a good day!

The screen door slams and Cal listens for his bike to start and Glenn to ride away.

He looks up the number in the phone book for the dialysis clinic and dials.

CAL Hello, this is Calvin Maples. I missed my appointment this morning. I know it is. I know. Well, is there any way to do it later? What about some help getting there? I don't think I can drive. INT. MAPLES HOME - MOMENTS LATER

The doorbell rings. Cal sits in the chair.

CAL

Come in! The door's open!

A PARAMEDIC opens the door and steps halfway in.

PARAMEDIC Mr. Calvin Maples? You requested an ambulance?

CAL I need to get to dialysis.

The paramedic walks in followed by a SECOND PARAMEDIC.

PARAMEDIC Are you in pain?

CAL

Uh - yeah. For lack of a better term - yeah, I'm in pain. I don't think I can walk.

PARAMEDIC (to Second Paramedic) Get the stretcher.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Cal lies in bed awash in desperation.

Dr. Belgrade hovers beside him.

DR. BELGRADE Your white count is very low. You can't go home now. You need to stay here.

CAL For how long?

DR. BELGRADE Until you're well enough to leave, Calvin. Why did you have an ambulance bring you in?

CAL I didn't have a ride. DR. BELGRADE You could have called a cab.

CAL It hurt to move.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER

Cal dials the phone.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. MAPLES HOME - CONTINUOUS

The phone rings. In the empty house the answering machine picks up on the fourth ring.

PATTY-JOYCE (V.O.) Hi, this is the Maples residence. We can't get to the phone right now but we'd love to speak with you. Just leave a message and we'll call you right back. Bye!

CAL (V.O.) Glenn? Hello. Oh, you're gone. Hey champ. You must be at practice.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

CAL I need to let you know - I'm in the hospital and it doesn't look like I can leave for a while. I'm not really in good shape. This isn't the kind of thing you leave on an answering machine, but . . .

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. MAPLES HOME - LATER

Glenn listens to the message.

CAL (V.O.)

I don't really have a choice. I'm pretty sick and I have things to tell you. Things I need to tell you in person. So if you could get over here, I'm not going anywhere, I have to stay here. Indefinitely. I'm in intensive care . . .

EXT. CITY STREETS - MOMENTS LATER Glenn races his motorcycle to the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAYS - MOMENTS LATER

Glenn approaches a desk.

GLENN Which way is intensive care?

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Glenn rushes to Cal and hugs him gently.

CAL Hey champ.

GLENN What did you do to your back?

CAL I wish it was my back. Sit down, Glenn.

GLENN What's with all the tubes?

CAL

I guess I needed more fluids. That's saline. It's just water. And that's morphine. It's . . . dope. Check this out. Oh, you're going to love this one. You ready? I need a kidney and I'm probably not going to get one. Told you it was a good one. I didn't think it would be so easy to die, but it really is. You don't have to do anything when you die. You just let go. You're not going to die.

CAL

Not right this minute, but, I can tell. I'm gonna die Glenn. Unless somebody else dies first and I get a kidney, then maybe. Maybe I won't but . . . my life was okay. It doesn't feel short or anything.

GLENN

You . . . you . . . how can you be dying? You're how old? Forty-two? You barely drink any liquor right? You can't be dying.

CAL Liquor hits you in the liver. This is kidney failure.

GLENN Well, our dog had kidney failure.

CAL And look at what happened to him. I have two choices. A new kidney, or a pine box, and it's not a choice I get to make.

GLENN

Is this something I could do?

CAL (firm) NO! I can't have your kidney. That wouldn't be right.

GLENN So it is something I could do.

CAL No, Glenn! It's not possible.

GLENN

Why not?

Glenn goes to Cal and holds his fist.

CAL It's uh, not possible. For me to take *your* kidney.

GLENN Why not? CAL Cause it wouldn't be fair. We're not blood. You and me. We're not related. GLENN What? CAL I'm sorry Glenn. GLENN Are you serious? Who are you? What am I? Adopted? CAL No! You're not adopted. GLENN Then what? CAL I'm apparently not your father. GLENN What about Mom? CAL Oh she's definitely your Mother, that's for sure. GLENN Then who are you? I mean, who am I? CAL Glenn, don't freak out. Glenn starts for the door. GLENN I have to go. CAL Where? GLENN I need to blow off some steam!

CAL Where you going to go?

GLENN I don't know. Out in the county! Back roads or someplace.

CAL Take the road to Eden. You can really open it up out there. Glenn!

Glenn stops.

GLENN

Yeah?

CAL Don't forget. Sweep the road.

EXT. EDEN ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

Glenn races his motorcycle over the blacktop of a country road.

Wheat fields and farm machinery stream past under a brilliant sky.

The road stretches out to a horizon of snow-capped peaks before him.

He guns the bike over 100.

The road dips and turns. He slows down for curves and zips along the straightaways.

When the road rises and falls he catches air. He passes a herd of deer.

Ahead of him a deer dashes toward the road.

He slams on the brakes and stops on the deserted asphalt.

The deer warily crosses the road and stops before him.

A fawn follows and then a second fawn.

The mother acts as a crossing guard and they all run across and leap majestically over the fence.

Glenn watches and smiles, then rides on.

He catches up with a truck towing a three-wheel ATV and a dead pronghorn antelope tied in the back.

Dead eyes stare at him.

He slows down and lets them drive away.

Glenn makes a U-turn and goes back.

INT. THE DOLLS DEN - NIGHT

In the dressing room in the back of the bar strippers prepare for their turns on stage.

P.J. tokes a joint with CINDY and drinks whiskey straight up.

CINDY Damn, you do have a fine body. I hope my body is half that nice when I get older. Not that you're old!

PATTY-JOYCE I know how old I am. But thank you.

CINDY What do you do to work out?

PATTY-JOYCE I ride my bike.

CINDY Is that it?

PATTY-JOYCE My bike is a Harley. It works your arms and your tits. A lot of people don't realize that.

A TATTOOED MAN steps into the dressing room.

TATTOOED MAN Pajama Party - you're up in ten.

PATTY-JOYCE I'll be there.

INT. MAPLES HOME - NIGHT

Glenn stands in the kitchen and stares at the same family photo Cal was kissing before.

In the photo Cal, Patty-Joyce and Glenn all stand together next to their bikes. Cal and PJ have Harleys and Glenn has a dirt bike. Cal wears a leather biker jacket. Glenn looks in the almost empty refrigerator. He slams the door so hard it bounces. He marches through the hall and opens the closet. Glenn's rifle hangs on the wall beside Cal's biker leather. I/E. THE DOLLS DEN - NIGHT

Clad in Cal's biker leather, Glenn enters the bar.

Glenn scans the bar and finds her in a topless lap dance.

Patty-Joyce pushes her bare breasts into a MAN's face.

Glenn grabs her by the wrist.

GLENN Mom, let's go home.

Her MAN freezes.

The DEEJAY (35) long hair, sunglasses, sees this and runs to her aid.

> PATTY-JOYCE Glenn! What are you doing here!

GLENN Taking my mother home. Now go get your clothes.

PATTY-JOYCE No. Let go of me.

DEEJAY Okay buddy! Outside!

GLENN

Back off!

Glenn shoves his finger in the Deejay's face.

The Deejay unsuccessfully tries to grab Glenn's arm and subdue him.

Glenn quickly grabs the Deejays arm and pushes him to the ground and pins him with his boot.

GLENN I said back off.

Glenn pushes him away and drags Patty-Joyce toward the door.

PATTY-JOYCE Glenn? Let go of me. What are you doing?

GLENN What am I doing? What are you doing? What are you doing here?

PATTY-JOYCE

I work here.

GLENN What are you? A fucking whore?

She slaps him in the face.

PATTY-JOYCE I am not a whore!

GLENN

What's wrong with you? What are you doing in this place?

PATTY-JOYCE I'm working! Now, you need to get out of here! Just get out and go home.

GLENN You need to come home.

PATTY-JOYCE I don't live there anymore. Don't you get it?

GLENN Dad is dying! Did you know that? Dad is dying! My dad is dying.

Glenn breaks down and she holds him.

PATTY-JOYCE I know it. I know. Come over here. She leads him into the back room and puts up her hand to hold off the Deejay and a BOUNCER.

INT. THE DOLLS DEN BACKROOM - CONTINUOUS

Another DANCER hands her a veil and she wraps it around her.

The other GIRLS hastily spill past them out to the bar when they see Glenn.

PATTY-JOYCE Glenn, listen to me. I can't go home. I just can't. Did you find out about the dialysis?

GLENN You knew? Why didn't anybody tell me. Mom? Why?

PATTY-JOYCE Glenn, I . . .

GLENN He's high on dope. He's delirious. He says I'm not his son.

PATTY-JOYCE He told you that?

GLENN

Is it true?

PATTY-JOYCE Maybe. Maybe, you're not his son.

GLENN Maybe I'm not his son? What does that mean? Who is my father if it's not Dad?

PATTY-JOYCE I can't tell you that honey.

GLENN

Why not?

PATTY-JOYCE Because I'm . . . not sure.

GLENN Oh, yeah. You're not a whore. EXT. THE DOLLS DEN - CONTINUOUS

Glenn barrels out the door.

He starts the bike in a single angry kick and burns away.

Patty-Joyce runs in high heels, stumbles after him.

PATTY-JOYCE Glenn! Wait! Oh, baby! Please wait! Glenn!

Patty-Joyce cries in the alley under the neon as the drone of his bike fades in the distance.

Other dancers console her.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL ARENA

The Timberwolves play the championship game.

Fourteen seconds on the clock with Timberwolves behind by one point.

ANNOUNCER

This is a barn burner folks, it's a one point game. All the blood, sweat, and tears will pay off for one of these two teams in the next 14 seconds. This is the best game I've seen all year and it's crunch time for a state championship. OK, here we go!

The tip-off.

Glenn, sweaty and determined rushes across the court with a look of hatred and devilish demeanor.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.) The Eagles in-bound the ball with Harshfield dribbling it past half court, now over to Hotchkiss on the right side, the Timberwolves need to foul - But no! Young steals the ball for the Timberwolves! Incredible! (MORE) 121.

ANNOUNCER(cont'd)

He passes it down court to Flynn, Flynn passes it to the left base line to Maples, 3 seconds to go, Maples takes the shot from 15 feet!

The ball hangs in the air and bounces around the rim.

Glenn hears only his heartbeat and the ball on the rim.

A silent gasp of anticipation and the ball falls away without making the basket.

ANNOUNCER

No good!

The buzzer blares and stings the Timberwolves.

The Eagles team and fans rush the court triumphantly.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.) The Malta Eagles hold on for an incredible 85 - 84 win to claim the 4A State Boys basketball championship! What a ball game folks! Incredible!

Glenn Maples, Rader, Flynn, Coach Jeff and the rest of the team are devastated.

Glenn stares at the basket.

EXT. OPEN ROAD - MORNING

Glenn's motorcycle roars at top speed.

He zips past farms and buttes.

EXT. GAS STATION - LATER

Glenn wheels up to the pump.

Tim Horvath appears.

GLENN Tim? You work here?

TIM HORVATH Yeah. Regular?

GLENN

Yeah.

Tim unscrews the gas cap and pumps.

TIM HORVATH I got something to tell you.

GLENN

Yeah?

TIM HORVATH You know your Mom moved in with my Dad?

GLENN Yeah. I know. So?

TIM HORVATH So - this is just between me and you - but, they're staying in the same room. The same bed.

GLENN

Fuck you.

TIM HORVATH Glenn. Serious.

GLENN What the fuck are you saying?

TIM HORVATH

It's true.

Glenn grits his teeth and talks low.

GLENN

Goddamn. Are you serious? I can't deal with shit like this anymore! What do you expect me to do?

TIM HORVATH Nothing. I don't know.

GLENN Fuck Tim! Fuck! What are we supposed to do?

TIM HORVATH I don't know.

GLENN Did you tell anybody? TIM HORVATH No. Fuck no.

GLENN You know about my Dad?

TIM HORVATH Uncle Cal? What?

GLENN He needs a kidney.

TIM HORVATH No shit. I didn't know that.

GLENN We'll neither did I. But he does.

TIM HORVATH I'm sorry for not talking to you for so long. It was that note.

GLENN

That note was a bunch of bullshit. Whoever wrote it - they lie. Anytime I ever smacked somebody, it was always in plain sight. Everybody knew it right away. Wasn't a secret. Not my fault he wouldn't fight back.

The gas pump stops. Tim hangs it up.

Glenn hands him a five.

GLENN Seventy-nine a gallon?

TIM HORVATH I know. It sucks.

GLENN

Fine.

TIM HORVATH Really. I'm sorry.

GLENN

I heard you.

TIM HORVATH It's not your fault that he jumped. You want green stamps? GLENN No. I just want to know who wrote that fucking note.

FLASHBACK - SCHOOL HALLWAYS

INSERT: Handwritten suicide note.

A hand signs "Daryll Dozier" and folds the letter.

Katie hands the note to Tim.

Tim shoves it inside Daryll's flower shrouded locker.

EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

Tim counts out change.

TIM HORVATH No idea. But, Glenn, something else - I got to tell you - thank you for not saying anything about us. Me and Daryll. You know?

Tim steps closer to Glenn and embraces him.

TIM HORVATH I really miss him.

Glenn accepts Tim's hug for a moment - then pushes Tim away.

Tim tears up.

GLENN

Alright! Get off of me! Stop it! Don't be a pussy, man! What the fuck are you doing? I don't need a fucking hug! You think I want people to know? That my cousin is a fag! That we camp together? That we shared a tent! That's why I didn't say anything! Okay? (takes deep breath) Stay away from me. Tim, I swear, if things don't . . I feel like I'm going to do something I really don't . . something not good.

Glenn kicks the starter once and it fails.

TIM HORVATH Glenn. Tell me what he said. Before he jumped.

FLASHBACK - WATERFALL

Glenn has his arm around Daryll.

DARYLL If you want me to - I'll suck you.

Glenn takes a deep breath and releases Daryll to step away.

They exchange shocking looks.

EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

GLENN He didn't say anything.

Glenn kick starts the bike and peels out.

EXT. HOSPITAL DRIVEWAY - DAY

Glenn pushes Cal's wheelchair to the car parked at the curb and helps him in.

GLENN

All set?

CAL Yeah, all set. Boy am I glad to be out of that place.

Glenn drives.

GLENN

No doubt.

CAL That my jacket? Looks good on you. I heard the game on the radio.

GLENN That's the way the ball bounces.

CAL (chuckling) Well, that's a good attitude considering the outcome. GLENN I'm just glad you're coming home. Somebody has to cook the frozen dinners.

CAL Okay, it's a deal. But you have to make sure I get back here every morning. Nine A.M. I'll work it out with your principal at school. I sold him a snowmobile. Boy, is it warm in here?

GLENN You want the window open?

CAL It's so - warm.

Cal passes out.

GLENN Dad! Hey dad!

Glenn slams on the brakes.

GLENN

DAD!

Cal's eyes are open but he is unconscious.

EXT. EMERGENCY ROOM DOOR - MOMENTS LATER Glenn blasts up to the curb. Horn blares. People rush to his aid.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAYS - CONTINUOUS

Aides place Cal on a gurney and wheel him inside.

The medical staff descends and pushes Glenn out of the way.

DOCTOR 2 Wasn't he just released?

GLENN Five minutes ago! I didn't even get out of the parking lot! DOCTOR 2 What was he here for?

GLENN His kidneys. Dialysis.

DOCTOR 1 Checking vitals. He's had a stroke.

GLENN A stroke?

DOCTOR 1 This is not good.

GLENN

What?

DOCTOR 1 Bring me a crash cart!

They rip open his shirt and juice up paddles.

DOCTOR 1

Clear!

His body convulses as Glenn watches in horror.

Hysterical, Glenn reduces to the child within.

GLENN Daddy! Daddy!

DOCTOR 2 Get him out of here!

Aides and nurses push Glenn out of the room.

GLENN That's my Dad! That's my Dad!

Cal gets several shocks.

No!

Glenn watches through his tears and the glass wall between them.

A flat line registers on the monitor.

The doctors stop and look at the clock.

They pull the curtain back.

Glenn wails.

A doctor comes out from behind the curtain and walks toward him.

The doctor shakes his head "No".

Glenn rejects what he hears and runs away.

EXT. HOSPITAL DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS Glenn peels out of the hospital driveway. He cries hysterically.

INT. MAPLES HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Glenn opens the closet door.

EXT. CITY STREETS - MOMENTS LATER Glenn, steel-eyed upon his motorcycle. Dark sunglasses. Cal's leather jacket. Rifle in hand. Blazes along the pavement to D Street.

EXT. NICKIE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Glenn pulls up in the driveway and bolts onto the porch.

He stands before the door and takes a deep breath.

Almost knocks, then turns the handle. It opens.

Glenn walks in.

Nickie appears from around the corner.

NICKIE

Glenn?

GLENN Where's my Mom? PATTY-JOYCE (O.S.) (from inside) Glenn?

NICKIE

Glenn, what are you doing?

Glenn raises the barrel and aims at Nickie.

Nickie raises his hands, spreads his fingers.

Glenn's eye lines up the site with Nickie's eye.

GLENN

Stand still.

NICKIE Hold on there, Glenn. You don't want to do this.

Patty-Joyce rounds the corner.

PATTY-JOYCE

Glenn!

Glenn remains remarkably calm. He directs Patty-Joyce.

GLENN Quiet. Don't scream. Go stand with Uncle Nickie.

She goes to Nickie. They huddle close.

PATTY-JOYCE Glenn. Please don't.

GLENN Who is my father?

PATTY-JOYCE

Don't.

GLENN

Who? Him?

PATTY-JOYCE

No.

NICKIE Glenn please.

GLENN You don't talk to me!

Glenn quickly raises the butt of the rifle and slams Nickie in the forehead.

Nickie falls to the floor.

Patty stoops to his aid.

PATTY-JOYCE

Nickie! No!

Glenn pulls her out of the way and tosses her across the floor. Raises the rifle by the barrel and slams Nickie four times with the butt. Blood issues from Nickie's face.

GLENN

Drink it! Drink the blood, Nickie.

Glenn cocks the rifle at Nickie's head, finger on trigger.

NICKIE

Glenn.

A flash of rage. Glenn smears the blood from Nickie's cheek with his fingers and shoves it in Nickie's mouth.

GLENN Drink it! Drink it you motherfucker. Drink the blood!

Nickie slurps his own blood.

Patty-Joyce crawls to Nickie.

Glenn aims the rifle at Nickie.

PATTY-JOYCE Glenn! No! Stop! What are you doing? You're my son.

Glen suddenly calm again.

GLENN

Your son! I am no longer your son! You do not exist in my world! This will be the last time you ever see me, so get a good look.

Glenn blasts a hole in the ceiling.

Plaster showers the room.

Glenn remains calm.

GLENN You are not my Mother. His rage returns.

GLENN

You're a filthy shell, that's all. My father - my father - Calvin Maples died today. I was right there the whole time. And where were you?

He kicks her.

GLENN Wasting your life on a fucking brass pole fucking this ratbastard? You weren't there. That's what killed him. You not being there.

He blasts four more rounds into the ceiling. Nickie and Patty-Joyce huddle together on the floor. Glenn calmly lowers his aim an inch from their heads. They close their eyes.

NICKIE

Glenn. Please.

He presses the barrel to Nickie's head. He pulls the trigger. It clicks. Glenn drops the rifle to the floor. Nickie shudders while he and Patty-Joyce freeze in a ball. Glenn takes a deep breath and walks out the door. They hear him walk down the steps. His motorcycle starts and roars away. Patty-Joyce cries. Nickie holds her.

NICKIE I got you babe.

PATTY-JOYCE Leave me alone! EXT. NICKIE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

She tears down the steps and hops on her bike.

EXT. CITY STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Patty-Joyce follows Glenn from a few blocks away. Glenn rides fast and she can't keep up. Traffic and red lights pull them further apart. She sees him take the river road. He passes the sign for County Road 226.

EXT. EDEN ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

On his bike, Glenn soars past golden hills of winter wheat. Patty-Joyce passes the sign for County Road 226. She sees Glenn far in the distance over a mile away. Glenn hugs curves on the deserted road. A rock sits in the lane before him. Glenn crests a hill and hits a small rock. He twists and almost loses control, but regains it.

> CAL (V.O.) Remember Glenn, you've got to sweep the road.

He sees deer in the fields and has one jump in front of him. He slams on the brakes and winds up in the center of the road as he narrowly misses it. The buck hops away. He stops and turns the bike around on the deserted road. The bike shuts off.

He listens, looks out in the distance, thinks he heard something. A faint hum.

He listens and hears a hum.

GLENN What is that?

A motorcycle flies over the hill.

Glenn's eyes widen in horror.

Patty-Joyce gasps as she realizes in that split second she has no time to stop and hits him.

A spectacular and furious crash.

MONTAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Their bodies lay quietly on the deserted road.

Glenn's motorcycle stands alone and gleams in the sun.

Songbirds sing.

Winter wheat laps in the breeze.

FADE OUT.

GREAT FALLS By Mike Rembis WGA Reg # 1164933 Copyright 2006/07/08/09