

A Sample Sequence
from
WHATEVER

An Original Story & Screenplay
by
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What happens when the fly in your eye upsets your entire world and your loving community turns you into a loser?

The narrative follows Travis Wright – family man and gun seller – as he hits the open road in search of his creative source. In the land of frauds and tricksters like himself, how does he become renowned singer/songwriter Pioneer Bill?

From pleasantville suburbia thru the dusty Town With No Name and then...

A parable of our time set in Texas , USA. (pp. 133)

EXT. BACK GARDEN, THE WRIGHT HOUSE - EARLY AM

Birds are busy in the trees. The canvas chairs are where we last saw them. The ashtrays are full of discarded butts. The crooked bullseye stand is still there.

There is a CRASH from inside the house off.

TRAVIS (OFF)

Oh, goddamn!

We HEAR a door slam and crash from inside the house.

FADE to BLACK:

We HEAR knocking on a window pane.

INT. LOUNGE, THE WRIGHT HOUSE - SUNDAY AM

Again, all is dark, but early morning light filters thru the curtains. Someone is knocking against the window.

SAM (OFF)

Hey, Travis bud', you up?
Ready to roll? Meet ya maker'?
We're already late.

Silence.

SAM (OFF)

I'll try the front door.

PHYLLIS (OFF)

If he wanted to come he'd be
standing right beside us now.
In fact he would have woken us up.
Look at the state of these plants.

SAM (OFF)

Travis. Hey you won!
The big Texas lotto!
One hundred million dollars.

PHYLLIS (OFF)
That might get 'im

We see the broken table, discarded bottles, fallen chairs.

PHYLLIS (OFF)
Would you step out?
If you looked as bad as he does with
that funny eye of his? Ugh!
I heard all about it. A real cesspit.
Ya get herpes there, I know.
Makes ya wonder. They drink ya know.
I would not be surprised if
she don't come by with somethin'
as well. Those poor, poor kids.

In the darkness we can just see an unshaven TRAVIS - he lies
awake on the sofa, his bandage is unravelled around his
fingers. His bad left eye seems a hollow mess.

SAM (OFF)
Maybe you're right. We came, eh?

PHYLLIS (OFF)
We came and we went.
I'm leadin' Bible class later
So let's go. Time's a' wastin'.

We HEAR them leave.

SAM (DISTANT OFF)
Sad, eh?

PHYLLIS (DISTANT OFF)
Sad for folks who are sad.

Travis lies back, thinks to rest, but he can't - he makes his
move, lurches up towards the upstairs bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM, WRIGHT HOUSE - SUNDAY AM

TRAVIS again at the mirror.

The bad eye is truly awful.

TRAVIS

Fuckin' horses. You want me?
You'll get me. I'll give ya sad.

Travis pivots quickly out the door. The light cord is left swinging in the air.

INT. MAIN BEDROOM, THE WRIGHT HOUSE - SUNDAY AM

TRAVIS still in jeans and T-shirt, grabs his Bible and lurches out the room.

TRAVIS (OFF)

I'll give ya fuckin' sad!

We HOLD on the shelf of happy family pictures as we HEAR the station wagon engine.

INT. CHURCH - SUNDAY AM

As before, a full CONGREGATION, with SAM and PHYLLIS at their places near the front. PHIL, the Community Leader, is a presence at the side. Even MARVIS is here too. PASTOR ROBERTS is at the altar. There is a pause in the service. There is movement from behind, then some whispering and turning of heads.

It is TRAVIS. He is striding down the middle aisle, still wearing his black hat, then he stands before the congregation, then steps up the podium. There are gasps! Pastor Roberts stands amazed, helpless. The steams of colors streaming thru the overhead mosaics fade and darken.

PHYLLIS

(whispering to Sam)

Your fault.

TRAVIS

My fellow believers.

Travis raises his Bible and opens it, looking for the right page, then down to the congregation, smiling at Marvis and then Phyllis and Sam, then Phil. Travis is not wearing his bandage. The awfulness of his eye can now be seen by all. Shocked looks from the congregation.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

As it clearly states in the Corinthians:
I appeal to you brothers and sisters, in
the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Marvis looks away. Impatient children try to pull adult down
hands from their small eager eyes.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

...that all of you agree with one
another in what you say, that there
be no divisions among you...

PHIL

Get down, sir. Stop this! Now!

TRAVIS

...but that you be perfectly
united in mind and thought.

Travis looks up from the Bible, stares down at the assembly.
Children are beginning to cry.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

We are one community.
Always have been, and always
will be. We will look after
eachother.

There is uproar in the hall.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

Amen.

Travis closes his Bible - there is some applause from certain
slow listeners.

OLD MAN

Sound's about right!
He the new boss here?

Travis lurches down to the aisle, strides past Pastor Roberts
who nods to Sam and Phyllis to assist. But Phyllis stays where
she. So Sam shadows Travis to the door.

CONGEGATION MEMBERS

Shame on you! Shame on you!
Do not darken our doors agin'!

Phyllis checks her watch, looks to her Bible.

CONGREGATION MEMBERS

Did you see? Did you see that?

EXT. CHURCH FRONT, SUNDAY - AM

A proud OFFICER JENKINS is flicking desert dust off his PA JENKINS's shoulder. MRS. JENKINS, their two CHILDREN, and MA JENKINS are dusting the desert dust from their Sunday best.

OFFICER JENKINS

Okay, ma? We aint missed a lot.

Ma Jenkins tries to smile as her son reaches for the door, with the family eager to join the devout worshippers inside.

Then - the church door opens and TRAVIS bursts into the family circle. His hair is unravelled, his exposed putrid eye glares out.

MA JENKINS

Agh!!!

Mrs. Jenkins grabs the terrified children.

PA JENKINS

My God! What is that?

OFFICER JENKINS

Travis? That you?

TRAVIS

And to hell with ya all!

OFFICER JENKINS

Travis that is ma own mother
you are talkin' to! Enough is
enough!

TRAVIS

You agin' I swear you are askin' fer it.

Travis lurches down the stairs and towards his station wagon. Sam arrives and stands alongside Officer Jenkins. Behind them is Phil the Community Leader who assists Mrs. Jenkins with the Jenkins children into the church.

Sam and Officer Jenkins witness Travis in the distance, getting in his station wagon, swearing out the window and heading down the road and round the corner.

SAM

Where does he think he's goin'?
There's nowhere to go to.

OFFICER JENKINS

Do I make the call?

The church organ can be HEARD - *Bringing in the Sheaves*.

SAM

Whatever.

Sam turns back into the church, leaves the door open for Officer Jenkins. He turns and they enter the church as one.

HYMN SINGING (OFF)

Sowing in the morning; sowing seeds of kindness,
Sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve;
Waiting for the harvest, and the time of reaping,
We shall come rejoicing bringing in the sheaves.

The church door closes as we rise up above and into the skies, then down again. And as the hymn fades we HEAR a pacy Country rock song.

EXT/INT. THE OPEN ROAD, TEXAS - SUNDAY AM

Swooping down, we are now on the open road singing with TRAVIS across the wide plains of Texas. The car radio blasts out Western tunes. He is wearing his black cowboy hat. This hat will stay with him forever.

END OF SAMPLE