

BUDDINGHOOD

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EXT/INT HIGHWAY/CAR

SUMMER 1954

A middle-aged couple are driving through the open country of North Dakota. A boy about 13 in a crew cut and short pants is in the back seat peering at the passing scenery of summer wheat fields.

UNCLE (DRIVER)

I think he'll be receptive.

AUNT

Yes, he's getting pretty old.

UNCLE

(glancing at the  
gauges)

I should've filled up before we left  
Fargo.

UNCLE (cont'd)

Can't remember if there's a gas  
station there.

AUNT

I doubt it. It's just a village.

They continue in silence as we alternate between open Big Sky country and its fields of soybeans and sunflowers, and the closed interior of the car.

UNCLE

We should be there in 10 minutes.

UNCLE (cont'd)

(looking back at the  
boy)

Jacques, did you understand what I  
said?

JACQUES

Yes.

UNCLE  
What did I say?

JACQUES  
(in a slight French  
accent)  
We be there in 10 minutes.

JACQUES (cont'd)  
(pointing outside)  
Uncle, what is that?

UNCLE  
That's called a silo. It's for  
storing grain.  
(under his breath)  
Such a city kid.

JACQUES  
Auntie, what he say?

AUNT  
He said that you're a sweetie.

They enter a village and turn onto the driveway of the local  
Catholic church and leave the car, walking towards the  
rectory.

INT RECTORY

The parish priest is discussing Jacques' future with his uncle and aunt, while the boy is admiring the birds in the walk-in aviary on the other side of the rectory.

PRIEST

I'm wondering if he'll have  
difficulty succeeding in school.  
He's only been in the country for,  
what, a month?

INT AVIARY

Jacques is walking about the aviary, smiling at the singing birds. He can hear the faint conversation though he can't make out what is being said.

INT RECTORY - CONTINUOUS

UNCLE

He's learning English fast, which  
kids can do at that age, and he's a  
smart kid.

AUNT

And so handsome. Do you know that he  
spent the last month reading our  
entire collection of Life magazines?

PRIEST

And what about his mother, way up in  
Montreal?

UNCLE

Yes, I'll have to arrange it with  
Father Stanley at the school so the  
boy can stay on campus during school  
breaks.

PRIEST

Well it's good that you and your son  
Bernard are alumni.

(cut to)

Jacques in the aviary...

(return to)

PRIEST

I'm willing to help pay for his first  
year at school, but I'm not promising  
anything beyond that, we'll see how  
it goes, and how his vocation goes.

The priest reaches for a checkbook from his desk and writes  
a check.

AUNT

He'll be a good priest for you  
Father.

(Music from Pictures At An Exhibition (Mussorgsky) starts).

EXT CAMPUS

Students arrive on the campus of St. Benedict Preparatory School to begin the academic year, suitcases and duffel bags in hand. Families are hugging their goodbyes.

Jacques's uncle points to a building and addresses Jacques.

UNCLE

The bookstore's in that building.  
That's where you buy things for  
school...and get money...for your  
allowance.

He gives the boy a perfunctory hug and points to a sign "New Students" where a few arrivals are already congregating. Jacques picks up his gear and starts in that direction.

JACQUES

(waving)

Bye, uncle Ned.

There, a Brother wearing a black cassock sits at a table checking everyone in.

BROTHER

Name?

JACQUES

Jacques Brosseau.

BROTHER

(locating the name)

There you are. Is Jacques the same as  
Jack in English?

JACQUES

Yes, I think so.

BROTHER  
(pointing to one of  
two groups of new  
students)  
You can join the other seminarians  
over there.

INT BUILDING STAIRCASE/DORMITORY

As students climb the stairs with their gear, we hear a  
Brother's voice off screen.

BROTHER (O.S.)  
The dining room and kitchen are on  
the 1st floor... Classrooms on the  
2nd floor... Offices and study halls  
on the 3rd floor. Your desks in study  
hall have already been assigned and  
you'll find the books you need inside  
your desk.

We see rows of desks in vacant study halls and empty beds  
close together in dormitories.

BROTHER (O.S.) (cont'd)  
Dormitories are on the top floor  
which is where the sinks and your  
lockers are.

The boys have reached the dormitories and are busy unpacking  
their corduroy pants and flannel shirts into narrow lockers.

BROTHER (O.S.) (cont'd)  
Once a week on Mondays, you drop off  
your bag of dirty laundry in the  
hampers by the door and clean clothes  
will be returned to you the following  
Thursday.  
In the building next door you'll find  
the library, game and card room, a  
small bookstore and a room with a  
brand new TV.

## INT DORMITORY NIGHT/DAWN

It is still dark out when everyone is awakened the next morning by a Brother walking down the aisles between beds and shaking a brass bell.

The students file out to the rows of sinks to wash up, still wearing their pajamas. One boy exposes another by quickly lowering his pajama bottom.

AXEL puts on overalls and peers out the window as the sun is rising. He is joined by Jacques and PAUL, an American Indian and probably the only student with a ponytail.

PAUL

How did you sleep?

AXEL

Not bad, except for all the snoring.  
Sounded like the pig sty on our farm  
at feeding time.

Jack leaves them and heads for the toilet.

PAUL

At least you won't have to milk the  
cows.

AXEL

Where are the showers?

PAUL

In the gym. When this school was  
built, like last century, showers  
hadn't been invented yet. But the  
gym is new.

## INT BATHROOM

Jack is sitting on the toilet still in his pajamas.

Curious and concerned, he opens the door a crack so he can listen to the conversations around the lockers and sinks.



VOICES O.S.

I hear Father Cuthbert's been  
transferred.

You growing a beard? Is that allowed?  
I don't know. We'll find out.

What's with all the corduroys? Don't  
you have any jeans?

That's great about the new TV. Now if  
they could just cancel evening study  
hall.

Hey lefty, go use a sink at the end  
of the row.

D'you bring any cards?  
A couple decks.  
That won't last long.

## INT CHAPEL

The entire student body is at chapel for early Mass. Altar boys are attending the priest. In the audience, some boys are pious and attentive, others disinterested, and no one wears uniforms or shirts and ties.

AXEL

(looking around)

It's not very crowded.

PAUL

We get a lot of visitors on Sundays.

Jack is seated well in the back and, as the organ begins to play during Communion, he is staring off into space.

## INT MONTREAL KITCHEN (FLASHBACK)

In his parents' kitchen some three years earlier, Jacques, wearing thin gloves, is making small circular Communion wafers by pressing a shiny quarter into slices of Wonder Bread. He places the wafers on a small plate taken from the family silverware set. He takes out grape juice from the icebox and pours some in a silver chalice and carries the plate and chalice into his bedroom which is actually an extension of the kitchen.

There he has covered a narrow table with a white bed sheet. In the center of the table is a wooden toy box covered with aluminum foil which serves as the tabernacle. He opens the lid of the box and inserts the chalice and silver plate inside. After lighting two tall candles at each end of the table, he dresses in one of his dad's white shirts which extends to his knees, and drapes his mom's purple shawl around his neck.

JACQUES

(yelling to his  
family)

Je suis pret! (I'm ready!)

His mom, dad and six-year-old sister leave the living room and take their seats in the bedroom and Jacques proceeds to do his best imitation of the Mass.

At Communion, he distributes the wafers to his kneeling family. Mom stares at her son, ecstatic, as if she is looking at Christ's reincarnation.

INT CHAPEL - CONTINUOUS

In the chapel at school, Communion is nearly finished as Jack joins the end of the line. He receives the Host and returns to his seat as the organ music ends.

## INT DINING ROOM

At breakfast all students sit at long rectangular tables headed by a priest or brother. FATHER ARNOLD, always jovial and smiling, heads the table where Jack is sitting with a dozen other boys.

FATHER ARNOLD  
(as he passes bread)  
I want you to meet a new transfer,  
Jack Brosseau.  
Jack, did I pronounce your name  
right?

Jack nods and smiles weakly.

FATHER ARNOLD (cont'd)  
13 years old and already a sophomore  
mind you...Jack is from Canada and  
speaks French. Still learning English  
so be patient with him.

PAUL  
Do you play hockey?

JACK  
Little.

PAUL  
What position?

JACK  
Goalie.

PAUL  
There's your goalie, Father.

PAUL (cont'd)  
(turning to Jack)  
Father Arnold is coach of the hockey  
team.

FATHER ARNOLD  
How tall are you, Jack?

JACK

Five feet.

A few boys snicker.

PAUL

But he'll see between their legs,  
Father!

AXEL

(as everyone laughs)  
What's your favorite food?

JACK

Bread.

AXEL

What else?

JACK

More bread.

INT MATH CLASSROOM

Father Desmond is teaching geometry. He writes a formula on the blackboard,  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ , and a right triangle showing its sides as  $a^2$ ,  $b^2$ , and  $c^2$ .

FATHER DESMOND

Anybody know what that formula is?

No one answers.

No? Right. You haven't taken Algebra yet.

It was developed by a Greek philosopher around 500 BC.

So if I measure off 6 feet along this wall starting from the corner, then square it, gives me 36.

So saying, Father writes 36 below  $a^2$ .

And I measure 8 feet along this wall, square it, gives 64.

He writes 64 below  $b^2$ .

Their sum is 100, and the square root of 100 is 10 and that's "c".

He writes 100 below  $c^2$  and crosses it off, writes 10.

"c" is called the hypotenuse, which in this case is the distance between the two end points on the walls, which I can't measure because there's desks in the way.  
That's how handy that theorem is.

As he stops to take his breath, CONNOR, who wears a white shirt and a narrow tie and is known to be the math whiz, raises his hand.

FATHER DESMOND (cont'd)  
 Yes?

CONNOR  
 Father, doesn't your starting point  
 have to be a right angle?

FATHER DESMOND  
 Yes, yes.

FATHER DESMOND (cont'd)  
 (pointing to the  
 corner)  
 It is. But thank you for pointing  
 that out.

EXT GRASSY FIELD

Jack is stretched out in the grass basking in the sunshine and reading the last of *Around the World in 80 Days*.

Paul happens to walk by.

PAUL

You're quite the reader there Jack.

JACK

Just try learn more English.

PAUL

What's the book?

JACK

(as he hands him the  
book)

I read it in French before.

PAUL

So you already know the story. Good idea...

JACK

Paul, what it means to flonk?

PAUL

(laughing to himself)

It means you didn't pass a subject.  
You got a bad grade, like an F.

JACK

Oh. I understand now.

PAUL

All right! See you later. After while crocodile.

Paul walks away and Jack finishes the book. He rises and heads for the library.



## INT LIBRARY

In the library Jack chooses other books by Jules Verne and when he finds Robinson Crusoe, he turns a few pages, sits on a small stool in the stacks and starts reading it, still wearing his thin leather jacket. The small pile of books he has selected lies beside him. The student volunteer behind the check-out desk walks over to where Jack is reading.

DESK CLERK

Want me to check these out for you?

Jack frowns, not understanding. The volunteer pulls a student ID card out of his pocket and points to Jack's pile of books on the floor.

DESK CLERK (cont'd)

(pointing to his card  
and to Jack)

Let me have your card.

Jack hands over his card and adds the Robinson Crusoe to the other books.

INT GYM

Jack is practicing shooting free throws, underhand. Other boys are playing a pick up game at the other end of the court.

After some success, Jack leaves the court and heads to the showers which he discovers are communal as he walks by. He sits on a bench in front of the lockers pondering whether he should strip naked, but decides to keep his basketball shorts on and enters the showers.

There MATT, a tall lanky basketball type, is now the only one showering.

MATT

You must be new.  
You a seminarian?

Jack nods.

MATT (cont'd)

That figures. We take our clothes off  
for showers here.

JACK

Yes, I see...  
Next time.

MATT

What's your name?

JACK

Jacques. Jack.

MATT

Matthew. Matt.

MATT (cont'd)

(pointing to the  
scapular around  
Jack's neck)

What's that?

JACK

A scapular.

Matt approaches Jack to look at it more closely. He fingers it and reads the inscription out loud.

MATT

"Whoever dies wearing this scapular shall not suffer eternal fire."

MATT (cont'd)

Whoa... so if you wear this you won't go to hell no matter what?

MATT (cont'd)

(smiling sneeringly)

Pretty good deal.  
You should wear your rosary around your neck too. It'd be pretty... stylish.

INT HALLWAY

As students are walking down the hallway between classes, Axel approaches Jack. Axel is wearing horn rimmed glasses now and sports an "I Like Ike" metal button pinned to his overalls.

AXEL

That was a great lecture on St. Augustine, eh?

JACK

Yes.

AXEL

I can't wait for the one on St. Thomas Aquinas.  
Are you going home for Christmas?

JACK

I can't.

AXEL

Why not?

JACK

My mom lives... where she works.

JACK (cont'd)

And Montreal is far...from here.

AXEL

So you don't have a place to go?

Jack shakes his head.

AXEL (cont'd)

Would you like to spend the holidays on our farm? My dad is driving up to get me. We have plenty of room.

JACK  
Gee, yes...thank you.

JACK (cont'd)  
What you do on the farm in the  
winter?

AXEL  
Not much. Fix things.

JACK  
My uncles are farmers too. For  
Christmas we always go to midnight  
Mass in a...what you call it?

AXEL  
  
Sleigh?

AXEL (cont'd)  
We don't have one. A sleigh I mean.  
But we'll make midnight Mass.

INT CARD ROOM

The card room also has a pool table. Jack and Paul are playing eight-ball.

PAUL  
Where d'you learn to play so good?

JACK  
My other school had a pool table too.

PAUL  
Where was that?

JACK  
Oh, in Canada.

As Paul misses and stands back, Jack pulls out a hunting knife which he had hidden in his sock and shows it to Paul.

JACK (cont'd)  
(stroking the sheath)  
Look what Axel gave me for my  
birthday at Christmas...Isn't it  
beautiful?

PAUL  
Yes. So you're a Christmas baby eh?

JACK  
No...23 December.

JACK (cont'd)  
Somebody might find it in my locker.

PAUL  
Just hide it in the back behind all  
the books you have in there. No one  
will look back there.

## EXT WOODS

On a mild winter day, Jack is walking slowly on fresh snow in the woods a short distance from the campus when he notices what look like deer tracks which he follows.

A northern hawk owl is staring at him as he walks, and soon the deer also turns to look at him. Jack stands still, mesmerized.

Later he discovers the remains of what had been a campfire and loses the deer's tracks. So he circles the campfire until he picks up the trail again.

He stops near an aged oak tree and starts throwing his hunting knife at the trunk. After a few attempts, he succeeds at sticking the knife. He pulls it out and, beginning at the point of the incision, carves a heart. When finished, he ties a red bandanna around a branch, and sits at the foot of the tree until he falls asleep.

On his way back, he picks up some tree leaves that are still in perfect condition.

At dusk, approaching the campus, he secures the knife inside his sock.

## INT HALLWAY

A fast-forward procession of half a dozen boys entering and leaving the men's room, all still zipping their pants as they exit. As this montage of a parade proceeds, music from *Can-Can* is blasting.

INT CARD ROOM

LEONARD, a heavy set boy with a crew haircut, and Connor are teaching Jack the card game of skat.

LEONARD  
(as he shuffles cards)  
Skat is a German game. I'm German so  
I know it good, yah.

CONNOR  
Stop acting German, Leonard.

LEONARD  
You need to remember lots of things:  
how the bidding went, who played  
which cards, and you need to count  
points after every trick. You need 61  
points to win the hand. Ace is worth  
11 points...Connor, show him the  
sheet...Everyone gets

CONNOR  
(interrupting)  
10 cards and 2 cards are for the skat  
or the kitty.

LEONARD  
So the bidding starts. Whoever wins  
the bid goes against the other two  
players, and gets to look at the  
skat.

CONNOR  
The 4 jacks are the important cards.  
They're the multipliers. They're  
always trump.

Axel approaches the table.

AXEL  
What's this?

CONNOR  
It's called skat.



CONNOR (cont'd)  
(sneering)  
Too hard for you, dummy.

CONNOR (cont'd)  
So you look at your hand and if you have one black jack, you're with 1. If you have two black jacks, you're with 2. If you also have the jack of hearts, you're with 3. All four jacks you're with 4.

AXEL  
Sure you can count up to 10, Connor?

The boys ignore Axel who walks away.

LEONARD  
And it works in reverse the same way. Without any jacks, you're without 4. If you only have the jack of diamonds, you're without 3, and so on.

CONNOR  
So after you figure out the number of jacks, you add 1 and multiply that number by what each suit is worth, 9 for diamonds, 10 for hearts... like it says on the sheet. That's how high you can bid.

INT GYM - NIGHT

A basketball game is underway against a visiting public high school team. The style of play features jump shots, hook shots and underhand free throws. Jack and Paul are watching from the stands.

JACK

Do you play?

PAUL

I can't. Only have one eye.  
(pointing to it)  
The other one is glass.

JACK

How did that happen?

PAUL

Someone on the reservation threw acid  
in my face.

JACK

Wow!...  
(adding quizzically)  
...What's a reservation?

PAUL

(realizing Jack  
hasn't a clue)  
It's a bit of land where American  
Indians live. I grew up on one in  
South Dakota, went to an Indian  
school run by nuns.

PAUL (cont'd)

The nuns gave me my new name, Paul,  
in first grade.

JACK

You had another name?

PAUL

Yeah. TAKODA, which means "friend to everyone" in Sioux. I guess that's why they chose Paul...But I'm still TAKODA at home. It's actually a girl's name but my mother insisted.

JACK

(smiling and offering  
his hand)

Pleased to meet you...TAKODA.

They resume watching the game. Jack is eyeing one of the girls in the stands. Paul notices.

PAUL

(glancing in her  
direction)

This is as close to her as you're gonna' get.

But when the girl leaves her seat, Jack gets up and follows her to the line at the concession stand but doesn't approach her.

INT SOCIAL STUDIES CLASSROOM

Father Arnold is teaching the Social Studies class.

FATHER ARNOLD

We've read news about the hydrogen bomb...we've heard about the Supreme Court decision to ban segregation in public schools...

Today I'd like us to watch the Joe McCarthy hearings which have been on television for nearly a month now.

Class troops out to watch the program.

JACK

Who's Joe McCarthy?

MATT

He's a senator who thinks he's found commies in Washington.

JACK

Commies?

MATT

Communists.

EXT SKY

A flock of starlings flying higher and higher, weaving their intricate patterns back and forth against a cloudless blue sky.

INT UNIVERSITY CAFETERIA

In the cafeteria of the University of Manitoba during summer session, Jack is the bus boy clearing tables and also removing the empty containers from the service line which he takes to the dish-washing room.

As he works, he gazes wistfully at the vivacious coeds around him.

INT BASEMENT ROOM/HALLWAY - NIGHT

In a windowless room, Jack and an older co-worker with whom he shares the room are turning in for the night.

JACK  
(looking at his hands)  
My skin looks like, I don't know the word.

GUNTHER  
A prune.

JACK  
Yes. Yes. A prune. Same word in French.

GUNTHER  
Ask them for gloves tomorrow when we get our pay.

JACK  
I don't get paid.

GUNTHER  
What!...How come?

JACK  
They send the money to my mom.

GUNTHER  
How old are you?

JACK  
Fourteen and a half.

Gunther is shaking his head in disbelief.

JACK (cont'd)  
Do you mind if I keep the light on  
and read for a while?

GUNTHER  
Naw. I don't mind.

Jack settles in under the bed covers and opens his book, *The Last of the Mohicans*.

After Gunther falls asleep, Jack gets up, picks up his roommate's copy of *Playboy* and heads to the bathroom down the hall.

## Act II

EXT CAMPUS

Students return for the beginning of the school year. The round of hugs and goodbyes is repeated.

Jack arrives alone. He is now nearly fifteen. He has grown a few inches and is letting his hair grow.

INT BOOKSTORE

In the campus bookstore, Jack is looking at school supplies on display.

JACK

Can I have two notebooks please?

STORE CLERK

What's the name?

JACK

Brosseau. B R O S S E A U.

The clerk flips through index cards until he finds Jack's.

STORE CLERK

Your account's been closed. No money left.

Jack looks dumbfounded.

JACK

Why?

STORE CLERK

Don't know. Talk to the Dean.

INT DEAN'S OFFICE

Jack heads directly to the Dean's office.

JACK

I was at the bookstore to buy some things...and my account is closed.

FATHER STANLEY

(smiling)

Jack Brosseau, right? Yes, you were in my religion class last year.

Yes, well you know, you wrote to me over the summer, saying you wanted to become a lay student instead of a seminarian...

I had to notify your uncle of this and...

JACK

Why?

FATHER STANLEY

And he wrote back that he would no longer support your stay here.

But he did talk to your mother in Canada and she agreed to pay for your stay.

So why don't you write and ask her to send a check to the Bursar for your school supplies.

Jack nods and slowly retreats backward and out of the room.



## INT CHAPEL

It's raining heavily outside as Jack peers into the donation box just inside the entrance to the chapel. It is totally quiet in the chapel as there is no one there.

Water still drips from his hair as he works. He is using an unwound clothes hanger to which he has attached some wet chewing gum, and he uses this tool to pry out dollar bills, even coins.

Each time he is about to remove monies from the box, he glances nervously out the front door to make sure no one is approaching.

Finally satisfied that there is not much money left, he steps outside. But it is still raining hard so he goes back inside and stands there, unsure what to do next.

He spots the confessional and walks to it. He opens the cubicle where the priest would sit. There are tiny openings on each side of the cubicle, each with a sliding panel which the priest opens or closes depending on whose confession he is listening to.

Jack enters one side and sits on the step rather than kneel on it. But after giving it some thought, he kneels on the step and speaks through the latticed opening to the would-be priest, in effect rehearsing his confession.

JACK

(in a low voice,  
almost whispering)

Bless me, Father, for I have sinned.  
It's been many months since my last  
confession.

Father, I have had many impure  
thoughts...

Father, I have stolen.

What have you stolen, my son?

Money, Father.

How much money?

Not too much. A few dollars.

Have you stolen more than once, my  
son?

Yes... Four or five times.

Who did you steal from?

(MORE)

JACK (cont'd)  
From the donation box, Father.  
Here?  
Yes.

Jack returns to a sitting position on the step, smiling to himself.

## EXT FOOTBALL FIELD

During an intramural tackle football game, Jack is playing defensive end. As their QB hands off to the running back, Jack easily flies by his blocker, is about to tackle the running back, but suddenly stops and lets him run right by him.

## INT/EXT GYM

As Jack steps on some wrestling mats, four boys on the wrestling team grab him from behind intending to throw him up in the air. Frantic, Jack turns into a kicking beast. He breaks free and runs through the gym until he finds the back door exit and stands outside panting.

INT DORMITORY - NIGHT

Soon after lights out, the boy newly assigned to the bed next to Jack's, rises quietly and ever so slowly slides his bed closer to Jack's.

He gets back in bed and lies on his back. He extends his right hand under Jack's blanket, exploring Jack's body.

Jack, also on his back, slaps at the movement under his blanket like he's swatting a fly.

The boy stops, but as Jack is not moving or saying anything, he tries again. It takes a little longer this time, but Jack slaps again.

The boy turns over on his side facing Jack and reaches his left hand under Jack's blanket. He massages the stomach first then grabs the penis and just holds it. Jack is no longer resisting.

Rhythmic movements follow. Faint strains of *Bolero* (Ravel) are heard.

Another student is heard shuffling down the aisle, obviously headed to the toilet. As he comes closer, the boy stops moving his hand, and so does the music.

The student passes by, the boy continues. The music resumes, a bit louder, an octave higher.

The crescendo of *Bolero* coincides with the climax.

The boy removes his hand and wipes it on Jack's blanket as he leans over and whispers in Jack's ear.

BOY

Don't let the bed bugs bite.

## INT DORMITORY - DAWN

The next morning, Father Arnold walks down the aisles waking sleeping boys and checking under some beds. Jack is one of the boys discovered.

It's laundry day and students are dropping off white bags full of dirty laundry in the large hampers by the door.

Jack climbs into one of the hampers and burrows himself until he is completely hidden by the laundry bags.

When the dormitory becomes quiet, indicating that probably everyone has left for Mass, Jack climbs out.

## INT CHAPEL

The routine morning Mass is in progress. There is an empty seat where Jack normally sits.

CONNOR  
(leaning to Leonard)  
Where's nature boy?

LEONARD  
Don't know.

## EXT WOODS

Jack is actually in the woods, looking up at a murder of crows circling a tall tree, cawing loudly in unison as they mourn the death of one of their own.

INT CARD ROOM

Jack, Connor and Leonard, who had been playing skat, are now about to play Hearts with Father Arnold who is shuffling the deck.

FATHER ARNOLD

Jack is the best hearts player in school.

CONNOR

What makes you say that, Father?

FATHER ARNOLD

He can shoot the moon before you even realize he's doing it.

CONNOR

Well then, let's play something else.

FATHER ARNOLD

I hear he's pretty good at skat too.

Connor doesn't answer.

FATHER ARNOLD (cont'd)

All right, all right, let's play gin.

## INT BATHROOM

ROGER is smoking in the men's room while Jack is the lookout. Roger is a school jock, wears his SB letter jacket everywhere.

At a signal from Jack, Roger throws his butt in the bowl, flushes the toilet and waves at the smoke, then goes to wash his hands. Jack waves at what little is left of the smoke and strides out the door. But the Brother is already disappearing down the hall, so he walks back in.

ROGER

Eh, why don't we go for a swim before this Indian summer is over?  
I'm so bored working out in the gym.

JACK

Hmm... OK, after my chem class.

## INT CHEMISTRY CLASSROOM

In chemistry class, FATHER GERARD is setting up a 16mm movie projector.

FATHER GERARD

Today we'll to watch an industrial documentary from Shell Oil. It's mostly a tour of one of their refineries. I don't know that you'll want to become a chemical engineer after watching it, but you'll learn something.  
Matt, can you lower the screen, and can someone draw the blinds.

As the movie begins, Father leaves and heads to the teachers' lounge.

MATT

Eh Frenchie, you do sentry duty today!

Jack, responding to his nickname, stands and goes to the classroom door and peers out.

Meanwhile, Matt is combing his hair as he rifles through a National Geographic until he finds nude girls and passes the magazine to the student next to him and soon a group of students are gawking at the pictures.

EXT WOODS

Jack and Roger are leaving the lake and walk to a sunny but isolated spot in the woods nearby. As he dries himself Roger takes off his swim suit and Jack follows suit. Roger flexes his muscles and draws his stomach in. They spread out their blanket, sit down and both light cigarettes.

Roger reaches over and taps Jack's penis top a couple times.

ROGER

Do you play with yourself yet?

Jack doesn't answer.

ROGER (cont'd)

(as he looks at

Jack's growing penis)

Sure you do. Sure.

Eh I'll do you, if you'll do me.

Still sitting side by side and now closely facing each other, they masturbate one another.

JACK

Do I get a prize if I do you first?

Roger is breathing hard and doesn't answer.

JACK (cont'd)

"Do unto others...

(together)

as you would have them do unto you."

They both burst out laughing.



JACK (cont'd)

"So the last shall be first, and the  
first last"

(closing refrain of Hallelujah, Hallelujah from Handel's  
Messiah)

EXT HIGHWAY

We see empty classrooms and study halls. It's the weekend. Jack, SAM and two other boys meet up to hitchhike to the nearby town. Sam is suave looking, with slicked down hair and a fake cigar almost permanently stuck in his mouth.

SAM

Everybody got their perms?

ALL

Yeah, yeah.

They take up different positions to attract a ride, sometimes lining up closely and directly behind one another, or with Jack, who's the smallest, riding on someone's shoulders, or all arranged in a circle as if they're playing cards, with one boy sticking out his thumb while seeming to continue playing, not even glancing back at incoming traffic.

Finally a pick up truck stops for them and they all pile in the bed. The driver yells out his window.

DRIVER

Where do I drop you off?

SAM

Ahh... we'll jump out downtown.

The boys are whooping and hollering. One throws his empty Coke bottle out the side of the road.

INT BAR

In town the boys are shooting pool and drinking beer.

BARTENDER

(addressing Jack at  
the bar)

Haven't seen you before?

JACK

It's my first time here.

BARTENDER

Well here's your Coke.  
    (winking as he slides  
        him a pewter mug of  
        beer)  
Got it?

JACK

Yeah, sure.

He grimaces at the taste of the beer and joins the boys at pool. Dollar bets are being made, bills thrown on the felt table before each game.

Sam walks over to the jukebox and picks *Shake, Rattle & Roll* (*Elvis*) and all the boys start dancing and gyrating around the pool table. One lies down on it and rolls until he falls off but lands on his feet.

As they are preparing to leave and putting away the cues, the bartender asks.

BARTENDER

Where you all going now?

JACK

To the movies. We're gonna' see  
*20,000 Leagues under the Sea!*

SAM

Jack says we're gonna' be inside a  
submarine for two hours. What a  
flick!  
Better piss now, guys!

INT CARD ROOM

In the card room back at school, Jack, Roger and Sam are playing hearts with CONNOR who is dealing cards.

ROGER

Come on. Give me that bitch.

CONNOR

Do you always have to use protection when you're doing it with a girl?

ROGER

Hell no.

SAM

It's up to the girl.

SAM (cont'd)

Just keep a Trojan in your wallet.

JACK

What's a Trojan?

CONNOR

It's a prophylactic.

SAM

He means a condom. You roll it over your pecker Connor if yours is big enough.

CONNOR

How long is it supposed to take, you know, inside a girl?

SAM

That's up to you.

CONNOR

What do you mean?

SAM

You make it last as long as you can.

CONNOR

What about when you do it to yourself?

SAM

Same thing.

CONNOR

How long does it take you, Roger?

Before Roger can reply, Jack pipes in.

JACK

For...ever.

Roger immediately slaps Jack's face.

Looking off to one side, stunned but not responding, Jack sits still while the other boys stare at the table. Roger is assembling his cards as if nothing has happened. Jack gets up and walks away.

EXT SHOOTING RANGE

Jack has joined the Rifle club and is prone alongside several other members, all shooting at targets propped up against an outdoor embankment.

INT CHAPEL

Sam is standing watch at the door to the chapel as Jack is intent on relieving the donation box again.

SAM

I like your con-trap-tion. Do you have something for robbing banks?

Before Jack can answer, Sam bursts in and they both run to hide on each side of the vacant confessional booth just as Father Arnold enters the chapel.

As Father walks down the center aisle headed for the sacristy, he notices one of the confessional curtains moving. He slows down briefly but continues, then changes his mind, turns and walks to the confessional, where he discovers Jack kneeling on the step.

FATHER ARNOLD

Jack, what, what are you doing here?

JACK

Practicing my confession, Father.

FATHER ARNOLD

You need practice?

JACK

Yes. It's been a long time.

FATHER ARNOLD

(waving him out)

Come on, come on. Get out. Get back to campus.

Jack leaves the confessional and Father continues to the sacristy. Sam, who has heard everything, hurries to join Jack outside. They have a good laugh.

EXT HIGHWAY

Jack is hitchhiking near the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport.  
A kindly looking cab driver stops for him.

CAB DRIVER  
Going to the airport?

JACK  
Yes, but I don't have money to pay  
you.

CAB DRIVER  
That's OK. Get in.

INT/EXT AIRPORT

Jack is rushing up to the Northwest Airlines counter.

JACK  
(arriving and waving  
his ticket)

After glancing at his ticket and looking Jack up and down,  
the ticket agent picks up the phone and speaks briefly.

AGENT  
(hanging up)  
Gate 12. Hurry. They're waiting for  
you.

Jack runs to the gate and out to the apron and sees that the  
small prop plane has stopped before reaching the approach to  
the runway, and is in the process of lowering its stairs.

Jack continues running, reaches the stairs as the plane door  
opens and a stewardess appears.

## INT BANK

At a Bank of Montreal branch, Jack is answering phone calls from commercial customers calling in their orders for cash to meet payroll.

JACK

OK, let me repeat your order: 47  
twenty dollar bills, 25 ten dollar  
bills, 8 five dollar bills, 35  
singles, 60 quarters, 40 dimes and  
100 pennies.  
Is that correct?... Yes, that will be  
ready anytime after noon today.

No sooner has Jack hung up, the phone rings again.

JACK (cont'd)

Bank of Montreal, Payroll section.  
Can I help you?

## EXT SIDEWALK

Jack is sitting on the sidewalk steps of an apartment building. An older boy sits with him but they are not talking, just watching the steady rain.

JACK

I guess I should go visit my mother.

Finally, the boy stands and retreats inside the building.

## EXT PORCH

On the first floor of a two-story row house, Jack is relaxing on the front porch with his mother who is dressed all in white. From the porch they can see an old man, who appears to be suffering from dementia, wandering about the apartment muttering "spasibo, spasibo".

MOTHER

(in French)

Il marche comme ca toute la journee.

(MORE)



MOTHER (cont'd)  
(He walks around like  
this all day)

JACK  
Qu'est ce que ca veut dire spasibo?  
(What does it mean  
spasibo?)

MOTHER  
(in her best English)  
It means Thank you. It's Russian.

EXT AIRPORT - NIGHT

A propeller plane lands at Minneapolis-St. Paul airport.

INT ENGLISH CLASSROOM

A priest strides into the classroom and addresses the class after standing behind his desk.

FATHER BART

This is senior English and my name is Father Bartholomew, but you can call me Father Bart. I'm from Uganda, in West Africa, and this is my first year here.

As Father surveys his students, he glances briefly at Jack and smiles. He turns toward the blackboard and a student in the back takes the opportunity to whisper "Father Fart" as he simulates one by using his hand under his armpit.

A few students chuckle, but Father Bart ignores the noise.

FATHER BART (cont'd)

St. Benedict is a college prep and the most important thing you can learn here is how to write papers. You may think you already know how, but we'll see, we'll see.

INT STUDY HALL

Students enter study hall to do their evening's homework.

SAM  
(in a low voice)  
Eh Frenchie, let's go watch Dragnet  
at 8:00.

JACK  
We'll get caught.

SAM  
Naw, Brother Justin thinks you just  
need to use the bathroom and forgets  
about you.

Jack is hesitating.

JACK  
You like to take risks, don't you.

SAM  
Come on chicken. I'll go first at 10  
to 8.

They take their seats and Brother Justin who is the prefect  
that night arrives and steps up to a raised platform that  
overlooks the entire study hall.

At the agreed time, first Sam and five minutes later Jack  
rise and raise their hands to obtain permission from Brother  
Justin to leave study hall.

But unknown to them, Brother has jotted down their names.

INT TV ROOM - NIGHT

Jack and Sam are watching Dragnet intently when Brother  
Justin enters and quietly locks the door behind him. He taps  
Sam on the shoulder and as soon as Sam turns his head,  
Brother throws three quick jabs at his face. Sam knows  
better than to retaliate but Jack has witnessed the punches.

BROTHER JUSTIN  
(turning to Jack)  
You. To my office.

INT OFFICE - NIGHT

Brother Justin first considers a cane, but settles on a leather belt.

BROTHER JUSTIN  
Pull down your pants and get on your  
knees against that chair.

Brother delivers half a dozen measured strokes.

BROTHER JUSTIN (cont'd)  
You can go back to study hall.

Jack pulls up his pants and as he passes Brother Justin he mutters.

JACK  
Thank you.

INT STUDY HALL - NIGHT

Jack is mad at himself for having said "Thank you". He turns to look back at Brother Justin until their eyes meet and Jack gives him a nasty look.

INT DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Several students, mostly upperclassmen, sit at a long table having their evening meal.

Thanksgiving coming up.

Yeah, turkey day.

I wonder... what if the pilgrims couldn't catch any turkeys?

They'd probably have to settle for sardines.

Would they cook them?

Probably just stuff them in the mashed potatoes.

There were no sardines back then. But they could've got deer meat from the Indians.

Yeah, and we'd be eating venison now.

I wonder what they drank?

Well it wasn't French champagne that's for sure.

Indian cocktails.

Indian cocktails?

Yeah sure, rum and blood.

INT ENGLISH CLASSROOM

Father Bart is striding up and down the classroom aisles distributing the students' papers.

FATHER BART  
(as he hands Jack his  
paper)  
One of you wrote about his father's  
death.

INT LIVING ROOM (FLASHBACK)

In the Montreal living room, Jacques is sitting on the floor reading *Les Trois Mousquetaires* (*The Three Musketeers*) which he has taken from the glass bookcase in front of him.

Suddenly his dad stands up from his desk and collapses in a heap.

JACQUES  
(rushing to him)  
Mamam! Mamam! Papa a tombe a terre!  
(Mom! Mom! Dad fell on the floor!)

His mom and little sister rush in from the kitchen and scream over and over.

INT ENGLISH CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Father gently places his hand on Jack's shoulder and continues until he faces the class from behind his desk.

FATHER BART  
But many of you wrote stories that  
just didn't ring true.  
(MORE)

FATHER BART (cont'd)  
 We'll be studying essays now, but for  
 your next short story try to write  
 about your own personal experiences.  
 It can be very liberating. It's also  
 easier than writing fiction...  
 usually.

INT PHYSICS CLASSROOM

A stern looking Father Werner is teaching Physics and  
 writing on the blackboard.

Like most of the students in the class, Jack is not paying  
 attention and stares out the window. Before Father can  
 finish, Jack asks to be excused.

JACK  
 Father, I need to use the bathroom.

Father Werner waves him off.

INT BATHROOM

Still fully clothed, Jack sits on the toilet smoking, taking  
 his sweet time, weakly waving each time he blows out smoke,  
 then returns to class.

INT PHYSICS CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jack returns just as class is ending. He goes to his desk to  
 retrieve his books and, as he is leaving, Father Werner  
 calls him.

FATHER WERNER  
 Brosseau.

Jack stops near the door and looks back.

FATHER WERNER (cont'd)  
I know you have no interest in  
Physics, but you ought to know that  
you're in danger of failing my class.

Father turns to the blackboard and continues erasing his  
entries. He has nothing to add so Jack shrugs and leaves.

EXT WOODS

Jack is in the snowy woods again, searching for deer tracks  
but not finding any. He returns to campus past a decorated  
Christmas tree in front of the chapel and heads to the gym.

INT GYM

Jack tries a few layups.

He listlessly throws up some free throws at the basket but  
soon leaves.



EXT CAMPUS

Father Bart is walking hurriedly and almost collides with Jack as they both turn a corner.

FATHER BART

Sorry!

JACK

My fault. I was looking at the ground.

FATHER BART

You're still here?

JACK

I have to stay on campus this Christmas.

FATHER BART

Oh.

JACK

I was just at the library but it's closed.

FATHER BART

I have a bookcase full... I have to go now, but why don't you stop by my room after dinner and you can borrow some.

(walking away)

*Au revoir mon enfant.*

(See you later my child)

INT DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Alone in the dining room, Jack is served a meal by an older lady.

MARY

BBQ chicken. At least you're getting  
what the Fathers and Brothers are  
eating.

MARY (cont'd)

Then you'll get leftover turkey after  
Christmas.

INT FATHER BART'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jack knocks and Father opens the door. He is wearing a white cotton bathrobe over his pajama bottom. Gregorian chant is playing on the turntable.

FATHER BART

Come in. Come in. What did they serve you at dinner?

JACK

BBQ chicken. The same thing you had.

FATHER BART

(pointing to the  
bookcase)

Take a look. I recommend something by Hemingway or Faulkner, but you can have whatever strikes your fancy.

As Jack peruses the books, Father Bart is pouring wine in two glasses.

FATHER BART (cont'd)

Have some of this excellent Cabernet.

Jack accepts the wine and notices some nude charcoal drawings on Father Bart's desk.

JACK

What are those?

FATHER BART

I'm trying. But I wish I had a model.

Jack sits on the bed, with the two books he has picked.

FATHER BART (cont'd)

It must be hard for you to spend two weeks alone on campus.

JACK

Yeah. Nothing to do but read, or go walk in the woods.

FATHER BART  
Would you like to be a model?

JACK  
You mean for advertising?

FATHER BART  
Yes. But I mean now. For my sketches.

JACK  
(hesitating)  
OK.

FATHER BART  
All right...You can keep your shorts  
on. And just lie down on the bed  
facing the wall.

As Jack starts undressing, Father gets an extra pillow from the closet. Jack lies down and looks out the window where the wind is pushing leaves along the ground and whipping snow against the window pane.

Father brings him another glass of wine and returns to his drawing.

When the Gregorian chant ends, Father puts an Erik Satie record of solitary piano on the turntable.

FATHER BART (cont'd)  
Do you know that I also give music  
lessons?

JACK  
(sounding interested)  
Really? What instrument?

FATHER BART  
Piano. Would you like some lessons  
over Christmas break?

JACK  
Uh... yes maybe...

A few moments pass in silence.

JACK (cont'd)  
Gee...I'm getting sleepy.

Father continues sketching, then opens a book on his desk and reads, occasionally glancing at Jack.

Father quietly gets an extra pillow from the closet and brings it to the bed where Jack has now apparently fallen asleep. Father leans over him to make sure. He takes off his bathrobe and pajama and slowly climbs in bed, positioning himself between Jack and the wall.

CUT TO:

**A lone fawn with its mother seen by a nighttime camera.**

RETURN TO:

Father is caressing Jack ever so gently, sliding his hand over his entire body.

CUT TO:

**The piercing yellow eyes of a night owl.**

RETURN TO:

Father is slowly lowering Jack's underwear.

CUT TO:

**A star-lit sky. A child's voice sings sweetly.**

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
How I wonder what you are!  
Up above the world so high,  
Like a diamond in the sky.

As Father continues stroking Jack, the boy begins to stir.

JACK (cont'd)  
 (bounding out of bed)  
 Gonna' be sick.

He rushes out the door to get to the toilet in the hall.

Father gets out of bed and puts on his bathrobe. He gathers up Jack's clothes and books.

INT BATHROOM - NIGHT

Jack is still kneeling over the toilet bowl as Father enters.

FATHER BART  
 Are you okay, son?

FATHER BART (cont'd)  
 I'm sorry I gave you so much wine.

FATHER BART (cont'd)  
 I brought your clothes and the books  
 you picked out. And a towel so you  
 can take a shower.

## INT HALLWAY

A group of students are gathered in front of a bulletin board notice announcing the baseball players left on the team. Among them are Matt and ROBBIE, the very picture of a sweet soul.

MATT

Eh, will you look at that. Frenchie made the first cut.

ROBBIE

He wants to play for the Gophers.

MATT

(chuckling)

Yeah right, go-fer it.

ROBBIE

Seriously. He told me he wants to major in forestry there.

MATT

Oh, a Park Ranger. Sure.

ROBBIE

No, he wants to be in one of those fire lookout towers.

MATT

Ugh. What a bore. He'd be playing solitaire all day up there.

## EXT BASEBALL FIELD

The baseball team is holding practice. Jack is batting but strikes out on three consecutive curve balls.

EXT MONTREAL STREETS (FLASHBACK)

10-year-old Jacques is smiling as he plays catch with his dad across the street.

INT HALLWAY

Robbie and Jack are heading to class.

ROBBIE

You're growing sideburns like Elvis?

JACK

Trying. It's taking forever.

JACK (cont'd)

I struck out three times yesterday.

ROBBIE

Who was pitching?

JACK

I don't know.

ROBBIE

Probably Jason our best pitcher.

JACK

I think I'll just try out for the track team.



INT TEACHERS LOUNGE

Father Gerard and Father Werner, the two science teachers, are discussing their students.

FATHER GERARD  
You failing anyone this term?

FATHER WERNER  
Just one. So far.

FATHER GERARD  
Better students this year for some reason.

Father Bart enters and pours himself a coffee.

FATHER WERNER  
Father Bart, how's your young protege?

Father Bart looks away and doesn't reply.

Father Werner and Father Gerard look at each with knowing smiles.

EXT TRACK FIELD

In a competition with a neighboring school, runners are lining up for the 880-yard (half-mile) run.

Jack is off like the jackrabbit that he is and opens up a large lead, nearly 40 yards by the second turn. He maintains that lead as the runners complete the first lap.

Fans on the infield are cheering the runners on.

But the pack slowly and steadily catch up with him and, as they turn for home, pass a rapidly fading Jack who finishes dead last.

JACK  
(panting but addressing the coach)  
Sorry, coach.

COACH  
You took off pretty fast. Why don't  
you give the 220 a try?

INT DORMITORY - NIGHT

Jack holds a flashlight under the covers so he can read  
Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*.

EXT SOFTBALL FIELD

Jack is playing second base. The pitcher walks the first  
batter. Next a fly ball is hit to the outfield for a routine  
out. Followed by a ground ball hit to the shortstop who  
relays it to Jack who completes the double play to first.

He raises his arm in triumph, smiling back at the shortstop.

EXT GYM

It's graduation day!

Parents, friends and relatives are milling about outside the gym, much like they did at the start of the school year, except that the Seniors are now in caps and gowns.

Connor, Sam and Matt are together with Robbie and Jack, a bit apart from the group, discussing their future.

CONNOR

You decide on college yet?

SAM

Yeah, I'm headed to Wharton.

CONNOR

Where's that?

SAM

Philly. Philadelphia.

CONNOR

What are you gonna' major in?

SAM

Gambling.

CONNOR

(laughing with  
everyone who heard)

How about you Matt?

MATT

Wherever. Whoever gives me a  
basketball scholarship.

CONNOR

Anybody for law or pre-med?

MATT

Henry is pre-med. But he'll probably  
wind up in nursing school so he can  
be around girls all day.

ROBBIE

(in a low voice to  
Jack)

Is your mom here?

Jack shakes his head, obviously disappointed.

JACK

She has to work.

CONNOR

What about you Frenchie?

JACK

Don't know. Maybe Minnesota.

Everyone starts filing in for Commencement.

INT GYM

SPEAKER

...We will now call each Senior to  
step up and accept their well-earned  
diplomas.

SPEAKER (cont'd)

Thomas Adler.

Thomas proceeds to the stand in center court and receives  
his certificate.

SPEAKER (cont'd)

Roger Butweiler.

SAM

Kick butt!

Jack notices that the student in the row below him is examining his diploma so Jack leans forward to look at it too.

SPEAKER

Jack Brosseau!

Jack walks over, accepts his diploma, shakes hands and returns to his seat. When he opens the diploma, he sees that the form inside is blank. Nothing has been filled in.

EXT GYM/CAMPUS/HALLWAY

After two or three more seniors are called, Jack slinks out of the gym and runs toward the main building. He climbs the stairs to the 2nd floor and enters the first classroom he sees.

INT CLASSROOM/HALLWAY

He slumps in a chair and cries violently, releasing his pent-up anger and frustration. He takes off his gown and throws it to the corner of the room.

But gradually he regains his composure and slowly paces around the desks.

Keeping his cap in one hand and grasping his diploma with the other, he leaves the room and resolutely walks down the hallway, up the stairs to the 3rd floor and knocks at the Dean of Students room but there is no answer. So he sits on a bench outside the door, waiting.

A few minutes later, Father Stanley arrives and signals Jack into his office.

INT DEAN'S OFFICE

Father goes directly to sit behind his desk.

JACK  
Why is my diploma blank?

FATHER STANLEY  
(hesitating searching  
for words)  
You know... you failed Physics... so  
you didn't have enough credits to  
graduate.

JACK  
But I had extra credits in Latin from  
my other school.

FATHER STANLEY  
We don't offer Latin here at St.  
Benedict, but we did apply those  
Latin credits, so you didn't have to  
do freshman year.

There is a long silence. Father can see that Jack is  
shattered.

FATHER STANLEY (cont'd)  
(in a soft voice)  
You can pass Physics, and I know you  
can...at any public high school and  
we'll grant you your diploma...  
Because you have a bright future at  
college.

INT HALLWAY/PHYSICS CLASSROOM

As Jack walks back down the hallway, he passes by the  
Physics room. He stops, turns and enters the room. He finds  
some chalk and, holding it so the entire chalk contacts the  
blackboard, he scratches a huge "F" filling the entire  
surface.

JACK  
Your grade, Father Werner.

## EXT CAMPUS

Following the graduation ceremony, cars are headed off campus with Seniors still celebrating, hooting and hollering with some tossing their caps out the car windows.

## INT DORMITORY

Meanwhile, Jack is packing his duffel bag and manages to get everything in. He has no qualms about securing his hunting knife around his belt, then he whips it out like a Western outlaw drawing his gun. He returns the knife to its sheath and reaches up to take down the empty battered suitcase from the top of his locker and lays it down on the floor. He's about to kick it down the aisle, but changes his mind and puts it inside the locker.

## EXT WOODS

After dropping off his duffel bag at the edge of the familiar woods, Jack searches for the red bandanna he had tied to a branch three years earlier. He has some difficulty locating it, but when he finds it he sees that it's none the worse for wear, so he ties it around his head Indian style. He sits at the foot of the tree, cross legged in a meditative state, listening to the forest sounds.

## EXT WOODS/HIGHWAY

Jack retraces his steps, picks up his bag and walks to the highway.

## EXT/INT HIGHWAY/CAR

With the road now nearly empty of cars, in the far distance Jack is seen hitchhiking, his bag at his feet, wearing pink corduroys and his leather jacket.

A '57 Chevy convertible driven by a middle-aged man stops to pick him up and Jack settles in. Sinatra's *I've Got You Under My Skin* is playing on the radio.

MAN  
Where you headed?

JACK  
Airport.

JACK (cont'd)  
Nice wheels.

MAN  
I was gonna' get the Nomad station wagon, but when I went to the dealership I just couldn't resist the convertible.

MAN (cont'd)  
Do you go to St. Benedict?

JACK  
Yeah.

MAN  
Year's over, eh?

JACK  
Yep.

MAN  
What year are you in?

JACK  
Senior.

MAN  
Oh, so you've just graduated!

Jack doesn't answer. The driver gathers that the conversation is over and they fall silent.

After some exchanges of sideways glances, the driver slides his hand on Jack's thigh, making small tentative movements.



JACK  
(glancing out the  
window)  
Better pull over and close the top.

MAN  
Good idea. Does look like it might  
rain.

The driver pulls over to the side of the road, gets out, closes the top and gets back in the car. When he resumes fondling Jack's thigh, Jack takes his hunting knife out of its sheath on his right hip and gently slides the knife under the man's hand and lifts the hand off his leg.

The man resumes driving in silence and at the next crossroad he turns right and stops on the corner. Jack exits with his bag.

EXT HIGHWAY

After crossing the road Jack continues hitchhiking. There is little traffic in either direction.

EXT/INT HIGHWAY/CAR

A pretty 18-year old brunette is driving a 1950 Ford coupe. Chuck Berry's *Roll Over Beethoven* is playing on the radio. She passes Jack but changes her mind.

GIRL  
(speaking to herself)  
That's just a kid, and he's got  
baggage.

She stops the car nearly a hundred yards past Jack and backs up.

GIRL (cont'd)  
I'm not going far.

JACK  
That's OK.

GIRL  
(as Jack enters)  
Where you headed?

JACK  
Airport.

GIRL  
Think you'll make your flight?

JACK  
Probably not. Haven't had much luck hitching. Almost missed my flight last summer so I got an open ticket this time, so it doesn't matter. But yeah, I might have to sleep in the airport.

GIRL  
Where you flying to?

JACK  
Canada. Montreal.

GIRL  
(curious)  
You speak French?

Jack nods.

GIRL (cont'd)  
I took French in high school, I just graduated.  
Je parle un petit peu (I speak a little).

JACK  
Tres bien. C'est beau. (Very good.  
That's beautiful)

GIRL  
What grade are you in?

JACK

Senior.

Jack quickly reaches for the book on the dashboard,  
Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye*.

GIRL

Have you read it?

JACK

No.

GIRL

You should read it. It's great. All  
about a boy about your age in New  
York.

GIRL (cont'd)

What do you like?

JACK

I like to talk to strangers.

The girl is surprised, thinking he would name a book.

GIRL

Well, I'm a stranger. So talk to me.

INT/EXT RESTAURANT/HIGHWAY

As the sun sets, Jack and the girl are eating in a booth in the far corner of a roadside restaurant. Jack is waving his arms and talking excitedly.

The camera discretely backs away and out to the deserted highway.

ACT III

EXT/INT RESTAURANT/CAR - NIGHT

At nightfall, the neon lights of the restaurant go on and the young couple saunter out of the restaurant in high spirits.

In the Ford coupe, Jack takes advantage of the bumper seat and snuggles up to Eva.

EVA

New York, here we come!

JACK

But first, our dirty laundry.

Jack reaches into his duffel bag, takes out a dream catcher and hangs it around the rear view mirror.

JACK (cont'd)

I got this from my friend Paul at school. He's an Indian. The only one there.

EVA

Is he still there?

JACK

No. He graduated a couple years ago.

INT/EXT LAUNDROMAT - NIGHT

They are each stuffing their dirty clothes into separate washers.

EVA  
Do you need detergent?

JACK  
Yeah.

He approaches Eva who hands him the detergent as Jack feeds her machine with coins.

EVA  
Gee, thanks.

JACK  
Yours are all men's clothes?

EVA  
My brother's.

JACK  
That's nice of you.

EVA  
Least I can do. He lets me use his car when he doesn't need it.

JACK  
(surprised)  
So the car is his?

EVA  
Yeah.

JACK  
How old's your brother?

EVA  
23.

Jack finishes adding detergent and coins to his machine and joins Eva who is already sitting. A young couple within hearing distance are having a discussion.

MAN

...so what that they ruled 9-0. It won't make any difference.

WOMAN

What do you mean?

MAN

Eh, people want to be with their own kind. All the white kids will stay in their schools, and the colored kids will stay in theirs. Nothing will change.

JACK

(yelling back)

You mean, like Indians want to stay on the reservations?

MAN

(hesitant)

What's that got to do with it?

JACK

(dismissive)

Never mind.

WOMAN

But the schools have to follow the new law.

MAN

They'll get around it. Or they'll just take their sweet time to do anything.

Jack lights a cigarette and turns to Eva.

JACK

Did you take Civics or Social Studies?

EVA

Yeah. We had the same argument that they're having.

EVA (cont'd)

(wanting to change  
the subject)

Let's play the Secrets game!

JACK

What is it?

EVA

We tell each other things we've kept to ourselves, things that no one else knows, or only very few people. Some of us played it in school.

JACK

OK. You start.

EVA

No, you start.

JACK

It was your idea.

EVA

OK. OK. I'm Jewish.

JACK

That's a secret?

EVA

Pretty much. I mean nobody at school knew.

EVA (cont'd)

My dad's Swedish but my mom's Jewish so that makes me a Jew. But we don't go to temple.

EVA (cont'd)

Your turn.



JACK

Ah...I robbed the donation box at chapel.

EVA

(giving Jack a hard look)

Really? Do you do this often?

JACK

Yeah.

EVA

Regularly?

JACK

Every Sunday after Mass. But no more, now that school's over.

They both remain silent after this revelation.

EVA

(changing the subject)

I'm so excited we're going to New York.

JACK

Me too.

JACK (cont'd)

(pointedly)

Too bad we can't use the car.

EVA

Oh but hitchhiking will be fun. And we can take buses if we have to. I got a lot of money for graduation.

JACK

Wonder if I can get a refund for my ticket.

EVA

Didn't you say it's an open ticket?

JACK

Yes.

EVA

No problem then.

JACK

So we'll go to Minneapolis first and  
I'll cash it in.

They sit quietly for a while until Eva stands up.

EVA

I need to get some fresh air. It's so  
hot in here.

She heads for the door but Jack stays sitting.

Outside, Eva takes deep breaths and looks at the sky  
dreamily.

Inside, Jack rises and goes to the men's room.

The washer stops and Eva reenters the room to move her  
clothes to the dryer, then adds Jack's clothes just as he  
approaches.

EVA (cont'd)

Got any more change?

JACK

Sure.

EVA

Feed the beast then.

She goes back outside and Jack joins her after starting the  
dryer.

EVA (cont'd)

Instead of spending money on a motel  
you could sleep in the car if you  
want. I can just leave it in the  
driveway.

JACK  
Your brother won't mind?

EVA  
I'll tell him.

EVA (cont'd)  
Should we buy sleeping bags?

JACK  
I suppose so. Never know where we'll  
wind up at night.

EVA  
We'll do that as soon as the stores  
open in the morning...Actually, after  
I go to my bank.

INT EVA'S KITCHEN

Eva is writing a note to her brother.

"Erik, going to New York with a friend. Tell mom and dad.  
Love, Eva"

She leaves it next to the coffee pot, pours a glass of orange juice and picks a couple of donuts from the fridge and heads out the door, picking up her backpack on the way.

EXT/INT DRIVEWAY/CAR

She knocks on the back window to wake up Jack. She hands him the orange juice and donuts, tosses her backpack in the trunk and joins him on the backseat.

EVA  
Donuts are only a day old.  
Sleep well?

JACK  
Oh sure. I can sleep anywhere.

EVA  
I couldn't sleep so I got up and packed.

JACK  
What time is it?

EVA  
About 7.

EVA (cont'd)  
We have three hours to kill before the stores open.

JACK  
How far is Minneapolis?

EVA  
About 20 miles.

JACK

We could drive to the airport and  
cash in my ticket.

EVA

Good idea.

They move to the front seat and Jack removes the dream  
catcher, puts it back in his bag.

JACK

You going to college in September?

EVA

Yeah.

JACK

Where?

EVA

I applied to a few snooty colleges on  
the East Coast.

INT SPORTING GOODS STORE

They are walking the aisles in the camping equipment section looking for sleeping bags.

EVA  
Don't think I want to cook.

JACK  
Takes too much stuff.

Poking at sleeping bags, Eva finds a double.

EVA  
Let's get a double. That'll save us some money.

Jack is surprised but is more than willing.

JACK  
Sure.

At the checkout they both pull out their traveler's cheques.

JACK (cont'd)  
We'll use mine.

CASHIER  
Your ID please.

Jack hands him his Canadian passport.

CASHIER (cont'd)  
You look pretty young there.

JACK  
I was 13.

Eva hands Jack some cash and the cashier hands the passport back to Jack but Eva grabs it and opens it.

EVA  
Cute...My God, you're still underage.

Jack looks sheepish and takes his passport from her. He signs a cheque and gets some cash back.

JACK  
Let's hit the road.

EXT STREETS

Now walking backwards while trying to hitch a ride out of town, they notice a drugstore.

JACK  
I need to get something in there.

EVA  
(as they approach the  
entrance)  
I'm tired. I'll just wait for you on  
this bench.

INT DRUGSTORE

Jack buys condoms and pays cash. The cashier is an old man and looks incredulous at the purchase but takes the money.

CASHIER  
(to his co-worker)  
Kids these days!

On the way out, Jack sees a collection of paperbacks on a circular stand. *Great Books of the Western World*. He stops to take a look and selects *The Great Gatsby*, goes back to pay for it.

EXT/INT DRUGSTORE/PHONE BOOTH

Just outside the drugstore, Eva is talking in a phone booth so Jack sits on the bench waiting.

We pick up the ongoing conversation.

EVA

Aunt Stella, I'm coming with a boy.  
Is that OK?

AUNT STELLA

Oh. Who is he?

EVA

Just a friend. He just graduated too.

AUNT STELLA

What's his name?

EVA

Jack. Jack Brosseau.

AUNT STELLA

Jack who?

EVA

Brosseau.

AUNT STELLA

Is that French?

EVA

French Canadian.

Dead silence.

AUNT STELLA

I think he should stay at the Y.

Another pause.

EVA

OK... I'll tell him.

EVA (cont'd)

Auntie, I'll call when we get to New York.

EVA (cont'd)

No, but we might stop on the way.



EVA (cont'd)  
Bye Auntie. Got to run.

Eva hangs up but stays in the booth for a moment. When she exits, she is looking at the ground, obviously disappointed.

JACK  
Who was that?

EVA  
My aunt Stella in New York...She says  
you need to stay at the Y.

JACK  
Y? I mean, what's the Y?

EVA  
It's the YMCA. I think it means Young  
Men's something something. You can  
get a room pretty cheap there.

EVA (cont'd)  
Shouldn't you call your mom?

JACK  
What for?

EVA  
To tell her you're not taking the  
plane.

JACK  
Naw. She doesn't care. She's still  
mad that I dropped out of seminary.

EVA  
But she'll be worried.

JACK  
(a bit exasperated)  
Oh, all right.

Eva sits on the bench while Jack goes to the phone booth. He takes out his tiny address book, inserts some coins, then cancels them out and simulates making a reverse call by just mouthing the words.

INT CAR

A college student has picked them up. Jack is in the back seat while Eva rides shotgun. *Mystery Train* (Elvis) plays on the radio. There's some U. of Wisconsin paraphernalia in the back seat which Jack notices.

JACK  
Are you in college?

STUDENT  
Yeah. I'll be going to summer school  
at Wisconsin.

STUDENT (cont'd)  
Guys, I'm actually stopping a few  
miles before Madison.

JACK  
That's fine.  
What are you majoring in?

STUDENT  
English I think. Unless I find  
something else.

JACK  
Did you read *The Great Gatsby*?

STUDENT  
No. Not yet.

EVA  
The *Catcher in the Rye*?

STUDENT  
Yes! That was pretty good.

STUDENT (cont'd)  
But the kid Caulfield is such a whiner.

EVA  
What do you mean?

STUDENT  
He's always complaining about somebody or something.

STUDENT (cont'd)  
And another thing. He's a phony himself, like he's pretty nice to everybody but he secretly thinks they're all bastards.

EVA  
Except for his brothers and his little sister Phoebe.

Jack has been intently following the conversation.

STUDENT  
(turning to Jack)  
What's your take on it?

JACK  
Haven't read it. But I will now.

EXT GROCERY STORE/HIGHWAY

Jack and Eva exit the grocery store each carrying small bags of groceries and resume hitchhiking.

EXT WOODS - NIGHT

In a clump of trees some 200 feet from the road, they are spread out over the sleeping bag. Jack is eating bread and a banana while Eva munches on potato chips and stares at the cloudless sky.

EVA

That old couple looked like they were mad at each other.

JACK

Yeah, I tried to start a conversation but they weren't interested.

EVA

I think he picked us up because he wanted to end their argument. Men will do stuff like that.

JACK

Are you speaking from experience?

EVA

My dad does it all the time. He always walks away when my mom starts an argument.

EVA (cont'd)

I'm beat. Time to sleep. Get up.

Jack walks away to relieve himself and Eva unzips the sleeping bag and climbs in. She takes a long swig from the water jug and looks back at Jack.

EVA (cont'd)

(as Jack joins her  
inside the bag)

Don't get any ideas.

A long silence as they both adjust their body positions.

JACK  
I have an idea.

EVA  
Keep it to yourself.

JACK  
Oh too bad.

JACK (cont'd)  
It's so hot in here.

EVA  
You can unzip the bag.

JACK  
I'd rather unzip you.

EVA  
Very funny. Ha ha ha.

EXT/INT HIGHWAY/CARS

A montage of a succession of cars as Eva and Jack enter and exit each one. Jack is often seen reading *Catcher in the Rye* in the back seat. *Pictures At An Exhibition* with full orchestra is playing throughout.

Then a rider in a black leather jacket on a small motorcycle stops for them.

RIDER

I can only take the girl.

Eva snuggles up to Jack.

JACK

Sorry. We need to stay together.  
Thanks for stopping anyway.

Another driver all slicked up with Brylcreem has picked them up. He keeps glancing at Eva's chest who looks very uncomfortable. Jack notices this from the back and writes a note for Eva. "Next stop for red light, we both jump out. You first. OK?" He slips the note to her alongside her door so Brylcreem doesn't see it. She nods yes to him, and at the next red light, she jumps out and Jack follows.

JACK (cont'd)

(as he opens the back  
door)

This is good. Thanks.

EXT HIGHWAY/GRAVEYARD - DUSK

Only a little light remains as they are both walking and trying to hitch a ride.

Around a bend they come across an old graveyard.

JACK  
(pointing to the  
tombstones)  
That's a great place for us to spend  
the night.

EVA  
You're kidding.

JACK  
No. No. No one will disturb us there.

And he leaves the road to enter the graveyard. Eva reluctantly follows.

EVA  
This is too creepy.

But she is smiling, apparently tickled by the prospect.

They walk around the graves, peering at the entries, most with birth dates in the 1800's, but some of babies. In the center there is a large monument, partially enclosed, probably that of the founding family in the area.

JACK  
This is great. We can move here if it rains.

JACK (cont'd)  
Here's some grass.  
I stake claim to this...this burial  
site.

EVA  
You ready to die?

JACK  
I think I'll leave some manure on one  
of the graves.

Eva laughs. After dropping off their bags, Jack walks away  
and Eva starts unpacking and making sandwiches.

Jack is washing his hands using the jug water. Eva pulls out  
two Dr. Brown's cream sodas.

EVA  
We were lucky. It's so hard to find  
Dr. Brown's. Usually only in Jewish  
delis.

EVA (cont'd)  
(suddenly)  
Let's play Secrets.

JACK  
Again?

EVA  
Why not?

EVA (cont'd)  
OK. Here's mine. My mom went to  
Sweden for an abortion.

JACK  
That's not YOUR secret.

EVA  
But it's a family thing. Nobody else  
knows.

JACK  
When was this?

EVA  
Oh a couple years ago. She was  
already over forty.

JACK  
My turn...let me think.



JACK (cont'd)  
I pick my nose a lot.

EVA  
Ugh.

JACK  
Yeah, I like to keep my nose clean.

EVA  
Ha ha.

JACK  
And I can breathe better.

JACK (cont'd)  
You're next.

EVA  
I had the best grades but they picked  
someone else for valedictorian.

JACK  
Why?

EVA  
Guess.

JACK  
You didn't tell anybody.

EVA  
No.

JACK  
Well...I didn't graduate myself.

EVA  
Really? How come?

JACK  
Failed Physics.

EVA

Why did you take it in the first place?

JACK

Everybody had to take it. It's Prep school.

EVA

OK, this is my last secret.  
I beat up my little brother once.

JACK

You have another brother? How old was he?

EVA

He was 6 or 7. I was 10.

JACK

So what happened?

EVA

I don't really remember.

JACK

What did your parents say?

EVA

I don't think they ever found out, because I told my brother I'd beat him up again if he squealed.

EVA (cont'd)

Your turn.

JACK

Sometimes my balls really hurt.

EVA

You have blue balls.

JACK

Where did you hear that expression?

EVA  
My brother, Erik.

After all these revelations, they are both quiet. Jack lights another cigarette.

EVA (cont'd)  
(haltingly)  
*Je veux pratiquer mon francais un  
peu. (I want to practice my French a  
little). OK?*

JACK  
*Mais oui (Of course).*

EVA  
*Je me sens tres bien (I feel really  
good).*

JACK  
*Moi aussi (Me too).*

EVA  
*Tu es fameux (You're great).*

EVA (cont'd)  
*Et tres gentil (And very sweet).*

JACK  
*Je comprends (I understand).  
Mais je suis embarasse maintenant  
(But I'm embarrassed now).*

EVA  
(not sure she  
understood)  
Now ask me something.

JACK  
*Voulez vous coucher avec moi? (Do you  
want to sleep with me?).*

Eva starts to slap him, but stops just short of his face and caresses his cheek instead, all smiles.

EXT GRAVEYARD - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

There is movement inside the zipped up sleeping bag.

And then the zipper is opened and Jack's back appears. Eva's bra is around her neck.

EVA

Slow down. Wait. Slow down.

Jack stops and just lies alongside Eva. He caresses her with long strokes from head to foot.

JACK

(whispering)

It's so kinky.

EVA

Can you put it on now?

JACK

Sure.

Jack opens the Trojan and unrolls it on his penis whereupon Eva rids herself of her bra and climbs on top.

EXT GRAVEYARD - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

A little later they are both lying on their backs with the sleeping bag half open.

EVA

We've lost our virginity.

JACK

Isn't that good?

EVA

For you maybe.

JACK

You'd rather still be a virgin?

EVA

No silly. But virginity is expected of women, not of men.

EVA (cont'd)

That's why they say we "lose" something the first time we have intercourse.

Jack has no answer to this.

EVA (cont'd)

Sorry. I'm just too calculating.

JACK

Let's just lie here together under the moon and the stars. See, they're just looking at us. They don't care.

Eva turns to Jack and smiles at him.

JACK (cont'd)

I've been noticing a lot of doves lately.

EVA

And?

JACK

They all look the same... and they look like they're all females.

EVA

Doves. That's us girls.

INT CAR

They've been picked up by a smiling young man driving a Jeep. He's wearing a starched white shirt, long sleeves with French cuffs and a tie with clip. Jack and Eva are crowded together in the back and Jack is gently stroking Eva's arm.

YOUNG MAN

Name's McPherson, Joe.

JACK

Hi Joe. I'm Jack Brosseau and this is Eva Johansson.

JOE

I'm going to the racetrack.  
I love horses.  
But I like betting on them even more.

He waits for this declaration to sink in, then...

JOE (cont'd)

Would you two like to join me?

JACK

(without even looking  
at Eva)

You bet. Is it around here?

JOE

Just up the road.

EXT RACETRACK

They are all sitting on a bench not far from the finish line. Joe is studying the program and also checking the tip sheet. Eva looks bored. Jack is smoking.

JACK

Who do you like?

JOE

Don't know. Plenty of time yet.

Joe looks up at the horses as they parade in front of the grandstand.

JOE (cont'd)

Aren't they gorgeous?  
No. 3 that Grey. Been in the money  
his last three races.  
I have a system see. Bet odds-on  
favorites to show. At least a hundred  
a throw.  
That Grey's the favorite but he's  
only 7-5 so I'll pass.

JACK

What's his name?

JOE

SURE SHOT.

JACK

Everybody's sure to bet him with a  
name like that.

JOE

Another reason not to bet him.

INT BETTING WINDOW

Jack steps up to the window and slides a twenty dollar bill to the seller. There's a portable radio in back of the teller playing *Heartbreak Hotel* (Presley).

JACK

Twenty on 7 to win.

A loud bell announces the close of the betting period.

The race starts and the grey horse jumps in the lead and is still ahead as they turn for home. But No. 5 closes fast and wins with the grey horse finishing 2nd and Jack's horse well back. No one wins anything. Jack throws his losing ticket up in the air.

EXT WOODS/HIGHWAY

One early morning, after spending the night in the woods, they are silently packing up to leave.

When Eva finishes rolling up the sleeping bag, she looks for the roll of toilet paper and walks off with it to find some privacy.

Jack sits against a tree smoking.

Eva returns and Jack picks up the sleeping bag and his own bag.

EVA

You sure smoke a lot for your age.

JACK

Sure could use a cup of hot coffee.

EVA

Let's go.

Jack rummages through his bag until he finds a small bottle of Canadian whiskey.

JACK

(taking a swig)

This'll warn me up.

Want some?

Eva has a hard look on her face and doesn't answer.

JACK (cont'd)

Let's ask our first ride to drop us  
off at a diner.

They reach the highway. The next town is not far so they start walking in silence.



INT DINER

They sit in a corner booth while golfing down a big breakfast in silence.

Jack lights up a Lucky Strike and blows smoke rings over Eva's head.

JACK  
(pointing to the  
rings)  
I just made you a saint.

Eva smiles weakly.

JACK (cont'd)  
(signaling the  
waitress)  
Refill please.

JACK (cont'd)  
Eva, you're so quiet.  
That's not like you.  
Something bothering you?

EVA  
Just don't feel good. I..I don't know  
what it is. Don't know why.

EVA (cont'd)  
How did you get the booze?

JACK  
Some guy sold it to me at the track.  
Guess he was out of betting money.

INT CAR

A priest in his civilian clothes but wearing the white collar has picked them up.

PRIEST  
Are you two related?

From the back seat Jack leans forward, placing his hands on the top of the front seat.

JACK  
(as if revealing a  
secret)  
Yes. We're lovers.

Eva turns her head toward the side window, trying hard not to laugh.

JACK (cont'd)  
Father, where are we?

PRIEST  
We're on the outskirts of Columbus.

PRIEST (cont'd)  
Don't you carry a map?

JACK  
Nope. Takes all the fun out of  
hitchhiking. Eh, birds don't use a  
map.

Eva looks as if something just occurred to her.

JACK (cont'd)  
Father, could you let us out at the  
next decent motel? We've been on the  
road for days and really need a  
shower and a hot meal.

## INT MOTEL ROOM

Jack steps into the shower. Eva is sprawled on one of the two twin beds staring at the slowly turning ceiling fan. She looks at a scratch of paper on which she had earlier jotted a few words.

Underage    Thief    Gambler    Drinker    No Degree

She adds a question mark after Gambler and crosses off Drinker.

In the shower, Jack is singing *Frere Jacques*, a French lullaby.

Eva crumbles the note and puts it in her denim shirt pocket. She leaves some bills on the lamp table and darts out the door.

Jack exits the shower and dries himself, still humming the lullaby. He puts on clean clothes and combs his hair which is beginning to show a tail.

He enters the room and sees no one is there. Eva's clothes are on the bed. He stands motionless. He opens the closet but it's empty save for a few hangers. He looks outside. Just parked cars and a maid walking away. Back in the room he calls the front desk.

JACK

Is there a girl in the lobby? Brown hair...wearing a blue denim shirt?

DESK CLERK

What room are you in?

JACK

213.

DESK CLERK

She just left in a cab.  
Also left you a note.

JACK  
Hold it. Hold it. I'll be right  
there.

INT MOTEL LOBBY

Jack jerks open the door to the lobby and hurries to the front desk.

JACK  
About that note you have for me.

The clerk gets the folded note from the 213 slot and hands it to him.

"See you in New York. call me. 949-4669 my aunt"

EXT/INT GREYHOUND BUS

Different views of a Greyhound bus. Destination: Columbus

Inside, Eva sits alone near the back of the bus. She wears a black handkerchief over her head, stares blankly out the window at the incoming traffic.

EXT/INT MOTEL ROOM

Morning outside the motel. People are checking out, loading their cars, calling each other.

Inside, Jack is still in bed, half asleep on his stomach. He turns on his back and looks at the ten-dollar bills still on the lamp table.

He sits up in bed and stretches, then sits cross-legged, eyes closed.

EXT/INT PLANE

A distant plane is going in and out of thick white clouds.

Inside the plane looking out, we see the eerie emptiness of space and the utter loneliness of the clouds as we hear the steady drone of the engines.

Miles Davis' *Miles Ahead* plays over the closing credits.

