

Boy Meets Girl

By

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2004

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INT CHURCH FOYER - DAY

PASTOR TODD stands with his back to the church doors. He smiles widely at the couple in front of him, the bride JULIA and the groom DANNY, both late 20s, waiting to exit.

PASTOR TODD

Daniel and Julia; before you go there's a few things I'd like to say. You look perfect together. You look perfectly happy, perfectly complimented, and perfectly content. I want you to remember how you feel right now. I want you to remember how each of you looks. Not just what you're wearing or how your hair is but how you see each other at this very moment. Take that, and along with it remember all the things that brought you here today. If you can do that I believe you'll find that you'll never be left wanting. If you can do that I believe you'll find a lasting and rewarding marriage.

Hand in hand they nod.

PASTOR TODD

I think you've seen enough of me for one day.

Pastor Todd turns to open the doors.

CUT TO:

EXT CHURCH - DAY

WEDDING GUESTS are assembled outside. They line the walkway leading down to the street where an idling limousine and chauffeur are waiting.

The church doors open. The crowd starts clapping as Pastor Todd steps out. He is followed by Danny and Julia. Pastor Todd steps aside. They each shake his hand.

PASTOR TODD

Congratulations.

JULIA

Thank you.

PASTOR TODD  
And blessings to both of you.

DANNY  
Thank you, Pastor.

They make their way quickly to the limo being showered in confetti. The guests close in behind them in their wake.

The couple get in to the limousine. The chauffeur closes the door behind them.

CUT TO:

INT LIMOUSINE

They sit facing backward, sharing the divider with the chauffeur. Julia slumps over and lets out an exaggerated sigh.

JULIA  
Ugh, this dress is killing me.

They both start laughing.

JULIA  
But you, sir, are looking very dapper this afternoon.

DANNY  
I just rolled out of bed this way.

They share a brief kiss.

JULIA  
We're married.

DANNY  
I know. Weird, huh?

JULIA  
It's not weird. It's perfect.

DANNY  
Why thank you, I tried.

JULIA  
No. Thank you.

DANNY  
Don't thank me yet. I'm sure you'll regret it soon enough once I start screwing things up.

JULIA  
I'll never regret it. You know why?

DANNY  
Why?

JULIA  
Because I love you.

DANNY  
I love you too.

JULIA  
You better.

Julia leans in to Danny and gives him a big kiss. The limousine starts to pull away.

DANNY  
Where's our luggage?

JULIA  
In the trunk. And yes, I grabbed your guitar even though you won't need it on the beach.

DANNY  
Thank you.

Julia dives across the limo to the backseat.

JULIA  
I have to.

She rolls down the window and pokes her head out.

CUT TO:

EXT STREET

The guests are now massed at the curb watching the limo drive away. Julia is hanging out of the window and waving back to them. The guests, in return, wave back.

As they approach an intersection Julia pulls her head and arm back inside.

Just as Julia pulls her arm in an SUV flies through the intersection and slams in to the limo. It impacts where Julia was waving from.

CUT TO:

EXT CITY STREET

The SUV has come to rest on the side of the limousine. It is bumped up but in much better condition than the section of limo stuck beneath it.

Sobbing and screaming guests run down the street toward the accident.

The SUV DRIVER gets out of his vehicle. Aside from some steering wheel rash on his cheek he's in fairly good shape. Cell phone in hand, he dials and puts it to his ear. The conversation is one sided.

SUV DRIVER

There's been an accident. I hit a limo.

(beat)

I'm at the corner of Waterford and Harris.

He reaches up to his cheek and winces touching the raw skin.

SUV DRIVER

I think I'm okay.

(beat)

I don't know. Hold on.

He runs around the limo and pulls open the driver side door. The chauffeur rolls out the door. He is lightly banged up, mostly dazed.

SUV DRIVER

Are you okay?

The chauffeur grunts an approval.

SUV DRIVER

The driver looks alright. He's bleeding a little but he seems okay.

(beat)

I don't know.

The SUV Driver sticks his head in to the limo.

CUT TO:

INT LIMOUSINE

The SUV Driver looks in to the back from the driver seat.

DRIVER

Oh my God.

In the back seat, twisted and bloodied lay Julia. She is pinned underneath part of the door the SUV plowed in to and is still resting on. Sitting with her, Danny looks fairly well off save a mangled left hand. His good hand is gripped on to one of hers.

DRIVER

Jesus. Send help. Quickly.

The Driver exits the car leaving Julia and Danny alone.

JULIA

Who was that?

DANNY

I don't know, Jules.

JULIA

I'm scared.

Danny starts crying.

DANNY

Me too, baby. Me too.

JULIA

How do I look?

He smiles through the tears.

DANNY

Beautiful.

JULIA

Did I look pretty in my dress?

DANNY

The prettiest bride I ever saw.

JULIA

Good. Danny?

DANNY

Julia?

JULIA  
I love you.

DANNY  
I love you too.

JULIA  
You better.

She smiles. Her grip loosens and he watches her die. Danny leans in and kisses her on the forehead.

The door beside him tears open as the first of the guests make it to the limo.

CUT TO:

INT KITCHEN - DAY

Danny sits on the kitchen counter. There is an empty glass sitting beside him. His left hand is heavily bandaged and he holds a big bottle of liquor in his right.

A black suit is laid out on the table in front of him. He is sporting a few days stubble and looks very tired.

Through the kitchen window the driveway is visible. A black sedan pulls in. A woman in her fifties, JUDE, gets out of the car. The car door audibly slams. Danny glances out at the noise.

DANNY  
Wonderful.

He pours a drink in to the glass sitting beside him.

Without knocking Jude lets herself in. Danny hops down off the counter. He pulls a chair out from the table.

DANNY  
Perfect timing, Jude. Happy hour.  
Pull up a chair and have a drink.

He nods to the glass on the counter.

JUDE  
Thank you, but no.

DANNY  
More for me.

Danny takes a belt off the bottle.

JUDE

It was a beautiful service.

DANNY

Two services in one week. What'd she ever do to be such a lucky girl?

JUDE

You should have been there.

DANNY

You think so? Would it really have made any difference, Jude?

JUDE

Of course it would have.

DANNY

No. I mean overall, would it have made a difference?

JUDE

Danny.

He swipes the glass off the counter sending it flying across the room and smashing against the opposite wall.

DANNY

Goddamn it. It wouldn't have made any difference and it wouldn't have mattered. None of this shit matters.

Jude starts trembling. Danny slams the bottle down on the counter hard. He grabs the chair.

DANNY

It's all shit.

He tosses the chair across the room. It creates a large hole in the wall.

DANNY

It's all wrong.

Danny flips the table over. Jude is out of the house in a heartbeat. Danny hops back up on the counter and grabs his bottle as though nothing happened.

He takes a big drink.

CUT TO:

INT JUDE'S CAR

Jude gets in to the car and begins crying. She flinches as her cell phone rings. She takes a moment to wipe away the tears before answering.

JUDE  
Hello?

DANNY (O.S.)  
Jude.

They talk over each other.

JUDE  
Danny. I know this is hard.

DANNY (O.S.)  
I need you to listen.

JUDE  
Jules loved you, Danny.

DANNY (O.S.)  
I know you lost your daughter.

JUDE  
I love you.

DANNY (O.S.)  
I know what you're going through.

JUDE  
I can't help you if this is how things are going to be.

DANNY (O.S.)  
You can't come here anymore.

JUDE  
What? Danny. I don't understand.

DANNY (O.S.)  
You can't come here and you can't call me. I need you out of my life, completely.

JUDE  
Please, Danny.

She begins crying again.

DANNY (O.S.)  
I'm sorry, Jude. Every time you  
talk all I hear is her voice.

The line goes dead.

CUT TO:

INT KITCHEN

Danny hangs up the cordless phone and tosses it casually in to the sink. He grabs his bottle and continues drinking.

Through the window Jude is waiting in her car. She stares at him for a moment before calling him back. The phone rings in the sink. He grabs the phone and hurls it across the room. It explodes against the wall.

The car starts in the driveway and Jude leaves. Once she's gone Danny glances over his shoulder at the empty driveway. He pulls himself off the counter and exits the room.

CUT TO:

INT BEDROOM - NIGHT

The bedroom is a war zone of boxes and garbage bags. In a small space on the bed he has a suitcase open. It is half full with clothes. A freshly opened bottle is within reaching distance.

He pulls a box down from the top shelf of the closet. Inside the box is a .22 and a box of bullets. He sets the two items in the suitcase.

He pulls a framed photo off the night stand. It's a picture of himself and Julia taken in front of Niagara Falls. He pulls the picture out of the frame and slides it in to a pocket of the suitcase.

He zips the suitcase up and heads in to the closet. A half dozen photo albums are stacked on a shelf. He collects them up in his arms and exits the room.

CUT TO:

## EXT BACKYARD

Danny is in the backyard in front of a barbecue pit. A well fed fire spits out black smoke as he feeds picture after picture in to the flames.

CUT TO:

## INT LIVING ROOM

Danny enters the living room from the patio door. The fire in the backyard continues without assistance. He snatches a suitcase off the floor and exits out the front door.

CUT TO:

## INT DANNY'S CAR

The car door swings open. Danny's suitcase flies across the driver seat, hits the passenger door and comes to rest on the passenger seat. Danny gets in to the car and glances at the beaten up guitar case in the back seat. He slams the door and starts the car.

CUT TO:

## EXT JUDE'S HOUSE - MORNING

Jude exits the house with her purse and keys in hand. She steps out on to the driveway. There are several boxes all labelled 'JULIA'. Taped to the top of one of the boxes is the Niagara Falls picture.

JUDE

Oh, Danny.

She pulls the picture off and slides it in to her purse.

CUT TO:

## INT MOTEL ROOM - DAY

The scummy motel room is littered with empty bottles and the outside world has been almost completely blocked off with blankets over the windows. The suitcase is open at the foot of the bed and the guitar case remains unopened upright on a chair.

Danny looks like stirred shit. He sits in bed, a nearly empty bottle in hand, staring at the opposite wall. He finishes the remaining liquor and clumsily rolls out of bed.

He stumbles across the room to the bathroom. He enters without turning the light on, drops to his knees and pukes his guts out.

CUT TO:

INT MOTEL ROOM - LATER

Danny wakes up a sticky mess on the bathroom floor. He stumbles back in to the main room.

He picks through some of the empty bottles on the floor. He finds one with a few drops left in the bottom.

DANNY

Bingo.

He sits on the bed, cracks the bottle and pours the few drops in to his mouth before tossing the bottle back to the floor.

He retrieves the guitar case from across the room, opens up the case and pulls out an acoustic guitar. He sits awkwardly with the guitar moving his left hand along the neck.

He tries to play the instrument. His left hand is having a lot of difficulty fretting the notes properly. He flubs notes several times before he sets the guitar down.

He marches over to the bathroom and pulls open the drawer underneath the sink. He grabs a pair of scissors from inside. Sitting underneath them is the .22.

DANNY

To hell with this.

He cuts the bandages off his hand. It is scarred, scabbed and stitched. It barely looks like a hand at all. He wiggles his fingers, the movement is very stiff.

DANNY

Let's see what you got cowboy.

Danny goes back to the guitar. He sits down and attempts to play again. Again he flubs several notes.

He gives his fingers a wiggle and tries again.

Again he fails.

DANNY  
Goddamn it.

He gives his hand a wide stretch. He grunts under the pain and small tears open in the scabs on his hands. He makes another attempt to play.

Failure after failure.

He sits there with the guitar in his lap watching his hand drip blood on to the floor.

He grabs the guitar by the neck with his good hand and in a single movement is on his feet and has the guitar wrapped around a post on the foot board of the bed.

He staggers across the room in to the bathroom and grabs a towel. He wraps it around his hand.

CUT TO:

EXT LIQUOR STORE - NIGHT

Danny is leaving the liquor store. He has a large brown bag that looks full to the brim. His left hand is rewrapped, the bandages are spotty with blood.

As he's crossing the parking lot a car whips in to the driveway. The driver, a COLLEGE KID, has to slam on the brakes so he doesn't hit Danny.

Danny stops and looks at the car for a moment before continuing on his way.

The kid honks at him.

COLLEGE KID  
Take your time. I don't have  
anywhere else to be.

Danny nods and picks up his pace. The kid revs his engine the entire time.

DANNY  
Sorry.

Danny clears the path of the car.

COLLEGE KID  
If you're that miserable just  
fucking end it.

Danny waves to him.

DANNY

I'll keep that in mind.

The College Kid jumps on the gas and the car squeals to a start. He burns as much tire as he can to get to a parking spot at the back of the lot. Danny just keeps walking.

CUT TO:

INT MOTEL ROOM

Danny drops the brown bag on the bed. He pulls out one of the many bottles. He opens it and downs a third of it in a single drink.

He carries the bottle with him in to the washroom. He turns on the light and takes a long look at himself in the mirror.

He sets the bottle on the counter and opens the drawer under the sink. He pulls out the .22. He hesitates before putting the gun in his mouth.

He closes his eyes and tenses. There is a long moment before he puts the tiniest bit of pressure on the trigger. Tears begin to form at the corner of his eyes. He begins shaking.

He tosses the gun to the floor and begins puking in to the sink. Tears stream down his face.

CUT TO:

EXT MOTEL - MORNING

Danny exits his room and walks across the parking lot to a dumpster. He pulls the .22 out of his pocket and tosses it in. He walks to the end of the parking lot and enters the motel office.

CUT TO:

INT MOTEL OFFICE

Danny sets his key on the counter and pulls some money out of his wallet. The KID behind the counter turns from his television and goes through the motions.

KID

Checking out sir?

DANNY

Yep.

KID

How was your stay?

DANNY

It was fine.

The kid runs everything through the computer, prints his receipt and hands him his change.

KID

Have a nice day.

The kid turns back to the TV. Danny turns and begins leaving.

Nearly out the door and he turns and heads back to the counter. He pulls out a dollar.

DANNY

You think I could get some quarters?

KID

Sure thing.

The kid swaps the cash.

DANNY

Thanks.

KID

Come back soon.

CUT TO:

EXT HIGHWAY GAS STATION

Danny pulls up to a pay phone outside a gas station along a faceless highway. He gets out of his car and slaps a quarter in to the phone and dials.

JUDE (O.S.)

Hello?

DANNY

Jude.

JUDE (O.S.)  
Thank God, Danny. Are you okay?

DANNY  
I'm fine.

JUDE (O.S.)  
It's so good to hear from you. I was so worried when I saw what you'd done at the house. Where have you been?

DANNY  
It doesn't matter.

JUDE (O.S.)  
You're right. Will you meet me somewhere? We'll have lunch and we'll talk everything out.

DANNY  
I need you to take care of the house.

JUDE (O.S.)  
What do you mean?

DANNY  
I mean take care of it. Rent it out, sell it, use it for storage. I don't care, just do something with it.

JUDE (O.S.)  
Why don't you meet me somewhere? We'll do it together.

DANNY  
Because, Jude, if I go back to that house it'll be to burn it to the ground.

JUDE (O.S.)  
What about you? Where are you gonna live?

DANNY  
I don't know, but I can't stay here anymore.

JUDE (O.S.)  
And your stuff.

DANNY  
Burn it. Burn it all.

There is a long moment of silence.

DANNY  
Goodbye Jude.

Danny hangs up the phone and gets back in to his car.

CUT TO:

INT DANNY'S CAR

Danny fires up the car. The brown bag is on the seat beside him. He cracks open a bottle and drives.

CUT TO:

INT JUSTICE'S APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The apartment is barely above a slum. JUSTICE (20) and DERRICK sit in the darkened living room playing video games. On the couch behind them lays Danny sound asleep.

DERRICK  
You're gonna make me ask who he is,  
aren't you?

JUSTICE  
Nope. He's just some dude. Ran in  
to him on the street earlier.

DERRICK  
Just some dude?

JUSTICE  
Yeah. Fell out of his car and  
wanted to know where a motel was. I  
was in the middle of giving him  
directions to The Lang when he fell  
flat on his face.

DERRICK  
And you thought it would be better  
if he crashed on your couch?

JUSTICE  
Seemed like a good idea at the  
time. About the only thing I  
understood was that he'd been

JUSTICE  
driving for three days straight. I  
thought he could use some rest.

DERRICK  
You don't even know this guy.

JUSTICE  
Sure I do. His name's Danny.

They play in silence for a moment.

DERRICK  
He fuckin' stinks.

JUSTICE  
Yeah, I noticed that too. I think  
he might have been drinking for  
three days too. Possibly longer.  
Crack open the balcony door, might  
help to air things out a bit.

Derrick gets up, opens the balcony door, and sits back down.

DERRICK  
It's not much, but it helps.

Danny wakes up with a start.

DANNY  
No!

Derrick and Justice both jump.

DERRICK  
Jesus!

Justice starts laughing.

JUSTICE  
G'morning Danny. Or, evening,  
whatever.

CUT TO:

INT RESTAURANT KITCHEN - NIGHT

TITLE CARD - SIX MONTHS LATER

Danny is a very different person. He's sporting a new collection of tattoo's. His hair is cropped down and is complimented by longer, rougher facial hair. He lords over a grill in an apron. His left hand is severely scarred and sports a tattooed black band where a wedding ring should be.

He pulls a couple of burgers off the grill and slaps them on to buns. He leaves them plain and wraps them in wax paper before tossing them both in to a paper bag.

On his way out of the kitchen he tosses the spatula across the room in to the sink. It splashes on impact. He pulls his apron off over his head and tosses it in to the corner.

CUT TO:

INT RESTAURANT DINING ROOM

An elderly couple sitting at a table are the only customers. Their plates are empty. MARLENE, the waitress, is finishing pouring them coffee. She looks up as Danny enters from the kitchen. She collects the couples plates.

MARLENE

Unless you need anything else I'll  
just bring the bill on over.

The couple just nod and smile. She heads over to the wait station. She dumps the dishes in to a bin and starts flipping through an order book. Danny meets her at the station.

MARLENE

You leavin'?

DANNY

Time to call it a night I think.

There's a glass full of money sitting on the counter. She pulls a \$20 out of it and holds it up for Danny. He takes it. Marlene begins punching an order in to the register.

MARLENE

For you.

DANNY

What's this for?

MARLENE

I did well tonight. Part of the  
reason is because I had decent  
customers. The other part is

MARLENE  
because of you. Well fed customers  
are well paying customers.

DANNY  
I don't want this.

He tries to hand it back to her.

MARLENE  
Well that's too bad. You deserve it  
and now you've got it.

DANNY  
Fine then, I don't need it.

He stuffs it back in to her cup.

MARLENE  
Oh. So I do, then?

DANNY  
That's not what I meant. The  
problems in my life can't be fixed  
by twenty dollars, Marlene. At the  
very least it can help ease some of  
yours. Just ring me in for two  
burgers, okay?

Danny pulls a five out of his pocket.

MARLENE  
Do you know how often waitresses  
offer to share their tips?

From a small office door beside the kitchen entrance, IVAN  
pops his head out. He shouts across the dining room.

IVAN  
Danny, come here.

Danny motions 'one second'.

MARLENE  
Never.

DANNY  
I'm flattered.

MARLENE  
You should be.

IVAN

Danny.

DANNY

But no thank you.

MARLENE

Fine. At the very least I'm paying  
for your food.

IVAN

Danny, I need to talk to you.

MARLENE

The longer you keep him waiting the  
louder he's gonna get.

Ivan pulls his head back in to the office.

DANNY

Stop being difficult.

MARLENE

Maybe you should listen to your own  
advice.

Marlene pulls the elderly couples receipt off the register  
and leaves the wait station, heading for the couples table.  
Danny walks back across the dining room.

CUT TO:

INT RESTAURANT OFFICE

The office is very slight in decoration. Ivan sits behind a  
cheap desk with a phone pressed to his ear. Danny peeks his  
head in.

DANNY

What's up?

Ivan pulls the phone away from his face.

IVAN

Sit.

Danny stays at the door. Ivan's phone conversation consists  
of little more than agreeing grunts.

IVAN

(on phone)

Yeah. Uh huh. Yeah.

(to Danny)  
Come sit.

DANNY  
I've got places to be, Ivan. Can  
this wait until tomorrow?

IVAN  
I said come in. Sit down.

Danny steps completely in to the room. He stands there for a moment listening to Ivan's grunts.

Marlene walks by with a bin of dishes and enters the kitchen. She smiles to him as she walks by. As the door to the kitchen closes Danny starts out of the office.

DANNY  
I'm outta here Ivan. We can talk  
tomorrow.

IVAN  
Wait, two minutes.

Danny is already out the door before he has a chance to finish.

DANNY  
No time.

CUT TO:

INT RESTAURANT DINING ROOM

Danny walks back across the dining room to the wait station. He tears a piece of paper off a pad. He writes Marlene on the paper and staples the five from his pocket to it. He sets it on top of her tip cup. He's walking out the door as Marlene comes out of the kitchen.

MARLENE  
G'nite Danny.

DANNY  
I'll see you tomorrow.

She grabs the paper with five attached to it. She calls after him as the door swings shut.

MARLENE  
Hey. Come back here.

CUT TO:

EXT RESTAURANT PARKING LOT

Danny pulls out a pack of cigarettes and lights one up. As he's lighting the cigarette he notices a MAN sitting in a car in the parking lot. He makes brief eye contact before walking away.

CUT TO:

EXT STREET

The neighborhood is run down and dirty. Danny walks down the street past houses converted in to stores. Aside from the occasional car the street is nearly empty.

Down at the corner, in Danny's path, a STREET PREACHER is anxiously shuffling about. He's got a hand full of booklets and looks wildly up and down the empty street. He's dressed in an old track suit. He looks as though he could be either an artist or a bum.

The traffic light turns red and he breaks in to his rhythm as Danny approaches.

STREET PREACHER

Tell me son, have you heard the  
word of God?

DANNY

Sure have.

The Street Preacher hands Danny a badly printed booklet: GOD HAS A REASON

STREET PREACHER

Hallelujah brother.

Danny glances at the booklet and chuckles. He hands it back to the Street Preacher.

DANNY

Yeah, he said you look stupid in  
that jumpsuit.

Danny walks in to the intersection crossing against the light.

STREET PREACHER

You can walk away from me, brother,  
but you can not walk away from  
Jesus.

DANNY

I'll keep that in mind.

Danny keeps walking. The Street Preacher gets even more agitated.

STREET PREACHER

Jesus walks with us with every step. He guides our every move.

DANNY

That's gonna make masturbating awkward.

CUT TO:

INT APARTMENT BUILDING

Danny walks in to the building lobby. Like the neighborhood it is old, dirty and worn down. He walks right past the elevator which has a cardboard 'out of order' sign hung on the door. He walks up the stairs and then down the hall of the twelfth floor.

Someones BASTARD CHILDREN are running around screaming and drawing in crayon on the walls. They nearly run over Danny as he walks to his apartment.

CUT TO:

INT JUSTICE'S APARTMENT

Danny enters the apartment. Justice is laid back on the couch watching television.

JUSTICE

The prodigal son returns.

DANNY

I thought that was you.

JUSTICE

Whatever.

Danny tosses him a burger.

JUSTICE

Sweet. Thanks.

DANNY

No problem.

Justice sits up and unwraps the burger. Danny sits down next to him. Out in the hallway one of the bastard children starts crying. The muffled reprimands of a mother can be heard through the walls.

DANNY

Guess who I just saw?

Justice shrugs, his mouth full of burger.

DANNY

Jack's back, baby.

Justice swallows hard to clear his mouth so he can talk.

JUSTICE

You've gotta be kidding me. Street preacher's back?

DANNY

Yeah, I was surprised too.

JUSTICE

Damn. How's he look?

DANNY

Surprisingly good. A little thinner than before but otherwise not bad.

JUSTICE

Wow.

DANNY

Yeah, I didn't think he'd ever be back either.

Justice tosses his burger down on to the coffee table and mutes the TV.

JUSTICE

I need you to listen to something.

Justice hops over the coffee table and hits play on a small stereo. Danny gets up and heads out on to the balcony as a song kicks in.

CUT TO:

I/E BALCONY

Danny steps out on to the balcony and pulls his burger out of the bag. He carefully unwraps it and begins eating. He watches as some SCUMBAG is ripping the stereo out of his car down in the parking lot. He talks back in to the apartment to Justice.

DANNY

Is this one of yours?

JUSTICE

Yeah.

DANNY

I thought so.

JUSTICE

What do you think?

DANNY

I like it so far. How long have you been working on this for?

JUSTICE

Since this afternoon.

DANNY

You're kidding. What about that other thing you've been working on for like four months now?

JUSTICE

Scrapped it. As soon as I did that this just kinda came out. Creepy stream of consciousness thing.

The scumbag frees the stereo. He leaves the car door open and jogs across the parking lot and out of view.

The music shuts off abruptly. As Danny turns a jacket comes flying at him.

JUSTICE

It's time to go.

Danny looks at the half eaten burger in his hand. Justice retrieves a CD from the stereo.

JUSTICE

Eat it in the car.

DANNY  
Can't I shower first?

JUSTICE  
You smell like sunshine and  
flowers. Let's go.

CUT TO:

EXT BUILDING PARKING LOT

Danny's car door is wide open and the interior light is on. The driver side window is in pieces on the drivers seat and the pavement beside the car. Danny and Justice approach the car. Justice has a small knapsack over one shoulder.

JUSTICE  
Motherfuck!

DANNY  
Yup.

JUSTICE  
I hate people.

DANNY  
Don't worry about it. It's not a  
big deal.

JUSTICE  
Man, I thought I heard glass break.  
It was right before you got home.

Danny begins sweeping broken glass off his seat.

DANNY  
Yeah, I watched him do it.

JUSTICE  
What? Why didn't you say anything?

DANNY  
Like what?

JUSTICE  
Anything. We could have come down  
here.

DANNY  
He'd have been long gone.

JUSTICE  
 Coulda called the cops.

DANNY  
 Yeah, cause they give a shit about  
 someone stealing a car stereo in  
 this neighborhood.

JUSTICE  
 Yell at the guy. Toss your fucking  
 burger. Anything. Scare the guy  
 away before he left a gaping hole  
 in your dash.

DANNY  
 He probably needs it more than I  
 do. It was just a car stereo.

Danny gets in to the car.

DANNY  
 Sometimes you have to just let  
 things go.

JUSTICE  
 You're priorities are seriously  
 fucked up.

DANNY  
 I'm aware.

Justice gets in to the car and slams the door. The engine  
 roars to life.

CUT TO:

EXT THE HIVE NIGHTCLUB

There is a short staircase in front of the entrance and a  
 very long ramp that runs the length of the building. The  
 stairs are clear but the ramp is lined up down and around  
 the building. Derrick is working the door.

Danny and Justice are walking down the sidewalk toward the  
 stairs. Justice still has the knapsack over his shoulder.

JUSTICE  
 Hey, if you didn't give a shit  
 about the stereo then I should have  
 stolen it. Better someone you know  
 than some asshole who's just gonna  
 trade it for a bag of pot. I could

JUSTICE  
have at least pawned it for  
something. A new piece of gear.

DANNY  
You're welcome to my next one,  
okay?

They walk up the stairs.

JUSTICE  
Hey Derrick.

Derrick nods.

DERRICK  
Hey guys.

Derrick opens the door for them and they walk right in.  
There are a few disgruntled groans from the line up but no  
one raises too loud of a dissenting voice.

CUT TO:

INT THE HIVE

Danny and Justice step in to the lobby of the club. The  
music, even in this room, is already very loud. RACHEL is  
sitting behind a counter collecting cover charge. There are  
two bouncers, JERRY and RON, standing next to the only way  
in to the bar.

RACHEL  
Justice.

Rachel leans over the counter and gives Justice a quick kiss  
on the cheek.

JUSTICE  
Hi sexy.

RACHEL  
Hey Danny.

DANNY  
Rachel.

Justice places a twenty in her hand. She gives him wink.

RACHEL  
Thanks, love.

Danny and Justice walk over to Ron, who has a stamp and stamp pad in hand. They have their wrists bared and ready to be stamped. He stamps them and they begin to head through.

RON

Enjoy guys.

As they walk past Jerry pulls the knapsack off Justice's shoulder. He opens it up and begins fishing through it.

JUSTICE

For fuck sakes, Jerry. Every week we do this.

JERRY

And every week I tell you that I'm not even supposed to let you in with one of these.

JUSTICE

Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't know you were doing me a favor. You find anything yet?

RACHEL

Jerry, stop being a dick.

Jerry zips the bag up and hands it back to Justice.

JERRY

Thank you.

JUSTICE

Oh no, thank you.

Justice and Danny continue in to the club.

JUSTICE

Dick.

CUT TO:

INT THE HIVE - LATER

Despite crawling with customers Danny has managed to find a quiet little seat at the end of a bar with an empty seat beside him. He looks no where but in to the bottom of his glass of scotch which is getting low.

Danny looks up to the bartender, FRANK, who is already on his way with a bottle. Frank adds to his glass.

DANNY  
That predictable?

FRANK  
It's my job. I know my customers.

DANNY  
That you do.

Danny drops a ten down on the counter. Frank gives Danny a nod looking behind him.

FRANK  
I think this one might be for you.

Before Danny can turn around there's an ass in the seat next to him. STEPHANIE, young, beautiful, and sparingly dressed sits down beside him. Frank holds up a glass.

FRANK  
Steph?

STEPHANIE  
I'm good.

Frank nods and heads down the bar to deal with other customers.

Danny and Stephanie share a quick glance and an awkward smile before looking away again.

STEPHANIE  
I see you here every weekend.

DANNY  
Yeah. I don't have much of a life.

STEPHANIE  
Nice. So whatcha drinkin'?

DANNY  
Scotch.

STEPHANIE  
I thought that was something only old men drank.

DANNY  
I'm probably a lot older than you think.

STEPHANIE  
I'd say, 29.

DANNY  
Okay, maybe I'm not. I feel old  
enough, does that count?

STEPHANIE  
I'm sure it counts for something.  
I'm Stephanie.

DANNY  
I know. You're that bouncer Jerry's  
girlfriend, right?

STEPHANIE  
Nope. Just Stephanie, no Jerry.

DANNY  
I thought you two were dating.

STEPHANIE  
We were. We're not so much anymore.  
Dating, that is.

DANNY  
Okay.

Stephanie holds out her hand.

STEPHANIE  
Like I said, I'm Stephanie.

Danny holds up his left hand.

DANNY  
I'm married.

Stephanie bursts in to laughter.

STEPHANIE  
Someone has a high opinion of  
themselves.

Danny looks down in to his glass.

STEPHANIE  
And that doesn't look like a  
wedding band to me. It looks like a  
tattoo.

DANNY

It's a wedding band. The permanent kind.

STEPHANIE

Oh. Well. Did it occur to you that I just might wanna talk? Maybe, I got stood up tonight and everyone I was supposed to meet up with didn't show. Maybe I'm just a lonely girl who didn't want to drink by herself. How about that?

DANNY

I'm sorry.

STEPHANIE

Don't be sorry. Tell me the truth. Did you just assume that because I sat down beside you I was trying to get you in to bed?

DANNY

No. It's a reflex.

STEPHANIE

A reflex.

DANNY

I am sorry.

STEPHANIE

All right. Then look at me when you say that.

Danny pulls his gaze away from his glass and looks Stephanie directly in the eyes.

DANNY

I'm sorry.

Stephanie studies his eyes for a moment. Her eyes dart back and forth from one eye to the other.

STEPHANIE

No problem, sugar. How about you buy me a drink and make it up to me.

Stephanie is already motioning for Frank before Danny can even respond.

DANNY

Sure.

FRANK

What can I getcha, babe?

STEPHANIE

Something sweet, Franks.

FRANK

You got it.

Frank grabs a cooler and sets it down on the counter.

FRANK

Four bucks.

STEPHANIE

It's on the married man.

Danny sets a five on the bar. Frank sweeps it up and goes back to his customers.

STEPHANIE

Thanks for the drink.

DANNY

My pleasure.

Stephanie gives him a kiss on the cheek and begins walking away.

DANNY

It's Danny, by the way.

STEPHANIE

I know.

Danny nods and continues staring in to his glass. Stephanie walks up behind him and whispers in his ear.

STEPHANIE

Just so you know, Danny, I think you're pretty damn cute. For a married man anyway.

Stephanie walks away and Danny is left grinning to himself. He talks to Frank as he makes his way back down the bar.

DANNY

She thinks she's pretty slick, doesn't she?

FRANK

You better watch yourself with that one. She's the devil.

CUT TO:

INT THE HIVE - LATER

Justice' song from earlier in the evening is playing over the clubs system. Danny is making his way through a sea of people and lights working toward the DJ booth on the other side of the dance floor.

As he finally frees himself from the crowd he finds Justice standing beside the DJ booth door, hands jammed deep in to his pockets. Danny stands beside him staring out in to the dance floor.

DANNY

This is yours right?

JUSTICE

Yeah.

DANNY

I only heard a little earlier. I couldn't be sure. I can't believe he's playing it.

JUSTICE

Me either. Look at this shit.

Justice pulls his hands out of his pockets. Both of them are trembling violently.

JUSTICE

I can't make 'em stop. The more I try the harder they shake.

Danny points out to the crowd on the dance floor.

DANNY

What are you worried about? It's crazy out there.

JUSTICE

I know.

DANNY

You couldn't ask for a better response.

JUSTICE

I know.

DANNY

It's a good track.

JUSTICE

I know.

DANNY

Then relax.

The DJ drops over seamlessly to another track. The dance floor explodes into a fury of flailing limbs and screams of approval. The DJ is almost immediately at the door with Justice' CD in hand. He hands it back to Justice. Danny takes a couple steps away and starts scanning the crowd.

JUSTICE

What'd you think?

DJ

You have to start thinking about getting your stuff mastered. I have to crank this shit all the way to 10 just so it competes with everything else.

JUSTICE

Okay. What else?

DJ

The guitars.

JUSTICE

What about them?

DJ

The guitars. The guitars. Where'd you sample them from, inside a peanut butter jar?

JUSTICE

Come on, they're not that bad.

DJ

Not that bad? I don't wanna be rude but they're fucking terrible.

JUSTICE

No. It's alright. You're right. I can't get a good guitar sound dialed in. I layer, I filter, I EQ

JUSTICE  
and it still sounds sampled. I  
can't get it to vibe.

Danny notices Stephanie on the dance floor dancing with some friends. She notices him and blows him a kiss. He smiles to her.

Although he doesn't notice him, the man who was sitting in the parking lot at his work is there too on the opposite side of the club watching him.

JUSTICE  
What else?

DJ  
I think that's it.

JUSTICE  
That's it?

DJ  
Don't sound so surprised. You've  
got a good track there. It's rough  
and it needs to be polished a bit  
but it's there.

He points out to the crowd.

DJ  
They liked it. Not much else  
matters.

TWO GIRLS walk up to the DJ booth and wait behind Justice.

JUSTICE  
I guess you're right. I'll bring in  
a better mix tomorrow.

DJ  
Do that.

The DJ hands Justice a flyer.

DJ  
After party, you should come out.  
(to the girls)  
What can I do for you?

Justice leaves the door and moves up beside Danny.

DANNY  
How'd it go?

JUSTICE  
A lot less painful than I was  
expecting.

DANNY  
Good.

Justice hands the flyer to Danny who glances over it.

JUSTICE  
After party. You up for it?

DANNY  
Honestly, not tonight. I was coming  
up to tell you I'm done for the  
night. Headed home.

JUSTICE  
Really?

DANNY  
Yeah, I'm wiped out.

JUSTICE  
I'm just gonna stop asking soon.  
You never want to do anything.

DANNY  
I know. Someday. Will you be  
alright without a ride?

JUSTICE  
Don't worry about it, I'll go with  
you. I could watch a movie or  
something. I don't know. My songs  
been played there's not much else  
to do here.

DANNY  
Don't bother. I'm just goin' to  
catch up on some sleep.

JUSTICE  
You sure?

DANNY  
I'm positive. You should go. Enjoy  
your party.

JUSTICE

Alright.

DANNY

I'll see you tomorrow.

Danny makes his way once again through the sea of moving bodies. As he finally steps out of the crowd he finds Stephanie standing right in front of him.

STEPHANIE

Going somewhere?

DANNY

I was thinking about going home.

She pouts at him.

STEPHANIE

But it's still early.

DANNY

I'm tired. I'm an old man and I need to catch up on some sleep.

STEPHANIE

And didn't even think to say good night.

DANNY

Good night.

STEPHANIE

Now that's not good enough.

She beckons him in a with a finger and moves close in to his face. She talks in to his ear.

STEPHANIE

You sure you can't stay a little longer?

DANNY

Not tonight. I'll be back tomorrow.

She gives him a kiss on the cheek and withdraws. She talks as she's walking away.

STEPHANIE

I'll be waiting. G'nite handsome.

Danny, smiling wide, shakes his head and continues on his way out. As he leaves Jerry glares at him every step.

CUT TO:

INT APARTMENT - MORNING

The morning sun peeks in to the living room. The strand of light is just starting over Danny's face. In the background the faintest hint of music, indistinct treble, can be heard.

The light wakes Danny. He grunts and groans and turns over on his side, away from the light. The music gets a little louder. He rolls back on to his stomach and peeks around through slitted eyes.

He rolls off the couch and heads down the hallway. As he walks the music gets louder. He glances in to Justice' room.

Justice is sitting at a desk in front of a computer. He has very loud headphones on and is intent on his work, his face inches from the monitor.

Danny enters the washroom and closes the door behind himself.

CUT TO:

INT APARTMENT - LATER

Justice is sitting on the couch eating a bowl of cereal and watching morning cartoons. Danny emerges from the washroom still wet from a shower with a towel around his waist. He dresses while they talk.

JUSTICE

You're up early.

DANNY

I have to remember to start pulling the curtains over. Did you get in late last night?

JUSTICE

Sometime around five. I think.

DANNY

Don't you ever sleep?

JUSTICE

I got some.

DANNY

When? It's not even 9:30.

JUSTICE

I got enough. I woke up to go to the washroom and I had an idea.

DANNY

I saw you working when I got up to shower.

JUSTICE

It started out just fixing the levels. Then I re-tracked some of the stuff to clean it up a bit. Next thing I know I'm writing and sequencing new stuff.

DANNY

And you're not a zombie right now. Amazing.

JUSTICE

It's the music. It fuels me. I was just taking a break to get something in to me and then I was planning on getting back to working on the mix down. Probably only another hour of work, maybe two.

Danny is completely dressed. He hangs his towel over the back of a chair.

DANNY

All right. I'll be quiet when I get back.

JUSTICE

You're heading out?

DANNY

I got a few things I'd really like to get done today.

JUSTICE

Oh yeah?

DANNY

Yeah. Well, one thing anyway. It's something I've been meaning to do for a couple of months now. I just couldn't be bothered. I figured since I'm up I might as well.

JUSTICE  
You mind dropping me off at the  
hardware store?

DANNY  
Sure. Why?

JUSTICE  
I just need to pick up some stuff.

DANNY  
Anything in particular?

JUSTICE  
Yeah. Just some stuff I've been  
meaning to pick up for awhile now.  
Just couldn't be bothered 'til now.  
Figured since the ride is  
available.

DANNY  
Fair enough. You ready to go?

Justice looks at his half eaten bowl of cereal, places it on  
the coffee table, and stands.

JUSTICE  
Sure.

CUT TO:

INT DANNY'S CAR

Danny and Justice are driving down the road. Justice is  
absently throwing chunks of the driver side window out his  
window while they drive.

JUSTICE  
It's quiet in here. I know. Put a  
CD in.

Danny gives him a quick glare.

JUSTICE  
So what's the deal with that  
Stephanie chick?

DANNY  
What about her?

JUSTICE  
That's what I'm asking.

DANNY  
Beats me. Why? What happened last night?

JUSTICE  
Nothing really. We crossed paths and she started questioning me.

DANNY  
About what?

JUSTICE  
Superstring theory. Brains and boobs. Who knew?

DANNY  
Seriously.

JUSTICE  
What do you think?

DANNY  
Anything I should know about?

JUSTICE  
Not really. A lot of it was asinine. Where you were from, stuff like that.

DANNY  
And what did you say?

JUSTICE  
I assume somewhere east.

DANNY  
East?

JUSTICE  
You were travelling west. Logical assumption? Mostly I told her that I didn't know. She asked about the ring tattoo.

DANNY  
And?

JUSTICE  
I didn't know. The only thing either of us learned last night is

JUSTICE  
that you've been crashing on my  
couch for six months now and I  
don't seem to know anything about  
you.

DANNY  
Good.

They pull in to a hardware stores parking lot. Danny pulls  
up to the front door.

JUSTICE  
I'm sure I know enough.

DANNY  
I'm sure you do too. What did you  
say you needed here?

JUSTICE  
Depends, what did you say you were  
doing today?

DANNY  
Never mind.

JUSTICE  
That's what I thought.

Justice gets out of the car, pulls his knapsack out of the  
back seat, and closes the door.

JUSTICE  
Thanks for the lift.

DANNY  
No problem.

CUT TO:

EXT USED CAR DEALERSHIP

Danny is wandering through a lot of very trashy used cars.

Although he doesn't realize it, the man who was lurking at  
his work parking lot drives by.

As he's looking through the cars he glances across the  
street to a fast food restaurant.

Sitting by the window is Stephanie eating breakfast with a  
couple of friends still dressed for the bar. She notices him  
shopping through cars. She smiles and waves. He waves back.

A SALES SLEAZE exits a trailer and intercepts him.

SALES SLEAZE  
How are you today, sir?

DANNY  
I'm doing alright.

SALES SLEAZE  
Excellent. Anything I could help  
you with this morning?

DANNY  
I hope so.

SALES SLEAZE  
You came to the right place. I got  
the best prices in town.

CUT TO:

INT APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - LATER

Danny has his sleeve rolled up and some fresh ink on his arm. He finds Justice in the middle of spray painting the living room wall. He has all the furniture pulled out and a plastic sheet laid to cover the carpet.

Justice is going to town on the wall, it's very haphazard and abstract.

DANNY  
Interesting purchase.

Justice continues painting while he talks.

JUSTICE  
I had a groove. Had to run with it.  
Looks like you got some work done  
today too.

DANNY  
I had a groove. You know, I don't  
think they allow that in the lease.

JUSTICE  
Fuck the lease.

DANNY  
I'm just sayin'. So you're a tagger  
now?

JUSTICE

Graffiti, baby. It's pure. It's the only art form left that still belongs to the people.

DANNY

How avant garde of you.

JUSTICE

You're an ass.

DANNY

I know. I like it; although I'm not sure why. Any idea where it's headed?

JUSTICE

Haven't the faintest. The inspiration hit and I had to run with it. To be honest I'm starting to get a little scared that it's going no where.

DANNY

Worse case you can just say it's Rorschach blot.

JUSTICE

Let people see what they want?

DANNY

I don't see why not. Don't they usually anyway?

JUSTICE

What do you see?

DANNY

Not much, although, it kinda looks like someone holding a child there. Maybe that's why I keep getting the family alarm going off in the back of my head.

JUSTICE

Somethin' on your mind?

DANNY

Always. You know, I've never heard you talk about any of your family.

JUSTICE

Don't have much to talk about. My mother died two years ago from cancer and she was really the only one worth saying anything about.

DANNY

That sucks. Sorry.

JUSTICE

No need to apologize. It feels like a lot longer than two years. It was rough at the time but it got easier once she was on morphine. She just kinda disappeared one day and never came back. She was still there but she was long gone.

DANNY

You did this all alone?

JUSTICE

There was no one else. I got no brothers or sisters. My douche bag father bailed a long time before I was even born. Since I don't have any extended family that I'm not completely embarrassed to be related to, once she died it was just me. Hell, it's half the reason I live in such a shitty neighborhood.

DANNY

It sucks not having family worth giving a shit about. I had lots of family but they were pretty much useless. Up until high school I took care of myself.

JUSTICE

What happened in high school?

DANNY

Girlfriend. She had a pretty amazing family, really easy to lean on. They were always good to me, even after her father died. Made up a little for me not really having anyone around.

JUSTICE  
Nice. So what happened to the  
girlfriend?

Danny holds up his hand.

DANNY  
I married her.

CUT TO:

INT RESTAURANT KITCHEN - NIGHT

Danny is back working the grill again. He's got two burgers going. Just like the previous night he bags up his food and gets ready to leave.

CUT TO:

INT RESTAURANT DINING ROOM

Danny exits the kitchen and immediately is called for from Ivan who is sitting in the office.

IVAN (O.S.)  
Danny, come sit down.

Across the dining room Marlene is at the wait station, she has a receipt with a five dollar bill stapled to it in her hand. She holds it up accusingly.

IVAN (O.S.)  
Danny.

Danny holds up a finger for Marlene to wait and enters the office.

CUT TO:

INT RESTAURANT OFFICE

Ivan is sitting at his desk. He absently plays with a pen while he talks.

Danny enters and sits down.

DANNY  
What's up, Ivan?

IVAN

How long have you worked for me,  
Danny?

DANNY

You already know how long I've  
worked here. You probably looked it  
up already just to be sure.

IVAN

How long?

DANNY

Five months. What's going on?

IVAN

That's right. Five months. Things  
here are good?

DANNY

They're just peachy, Ivan. I'm  
gonna go now.

Danny starts to get up from his chair.

IVAN

Wait. Sit. Everything is good?

Danny sits back down.

DANNY

I got no complaints. You?

IVAN

No complaints. Are you happy here,  
Danny? Working for me?

DANNY

Happy as a clam. Are you gonna keep  
asking me the same question twenty  
different ways or are you gonna  
tell me what you called me in here  
for?

IVAN

Okay, you win. You've been doing a  
very good job. I'm very happy with  
the work you've done.

DANNY

Thank you. And?

IVAN

And I want to offer you a job,  
Danny.

Danny begins fidgeting in his seat.

DANNY

What kind of job?

IVAN

Kitchen manager.

DANNY

No thanks.

Danny gets up from his seat and starts out the door.

IVAN

Wait. Hear me out.

Danny turns around and makes eye contact with Ivan.

DANNY

I don't want a management job,  
Ivan. I've had them before and they  
suck. It's a lot of hours and a lot  
of responsibility so that someone  
else doesn't have to do any hard  
work.

IVAN

It's not that. Sit down. At least  
let me tell you what I want before  
you say no for sure. Please, sit.

Danny remains standing.

DANNY

Just tell me.

IVAN

35 hours a week. You're already  
working 30 so that's not much of a  
change. You'll take over the entire  
kitchen. Hiring, scheduling, the  
grill, inventory, everything except  
ordering. It would be your kitchen  
to run however you want.

DANNY

And?

IVAN

It's a little bit more responsibility for a lot more control and some more money. What do you think so far?

DANNY

I think I'm still not interested.

IVAN

You wouldn't rather make twenty eight thousand a year?

DANNY

Twenty eight K? No thanks.

IVAN

You're already doing the work.

DANNY

I'm aware.

IVAN

Fine. Twenty nine.

DANNY

It's not about the money.

IVAN

Twenty nine five. It's as high as I can go.

DANNY

Ivan, stop. Like I said, it's not about the money. I appreciate the offer. It's nice to know that I'm doing something right but this isn't what I'm looking for.

IVAN

Tell me what I can do. What would make you say yes?

DANNY

Nothing. I have a flexibility and freedom right now that I'd have to forfeit for this position. I'm not looking for this right now. Or any time in the near future.

IVAN

And you're sure about this?

DANNY

Positive. I dig what I've got here but to be honest I don't picture myself doing this five years from now. Hell, a year from now. I don't want to take money for a job that I'm probably not going to be around long enough to do properly.

IVAN

I'm very sorry to hear that. Thank you for being honest with me.

DANNY

Like I said, I'm flattered you'd consider me but I'm not the right guy for this job.

IVAN

Thank you, Danny. You can go now.

Danny leaves the office.

CUT TO:

INT RESTAURANT DINING ROOM

Marlene is waiting just outside the office door. She gives him a confused look as he exits. They walk over to the wait station together without saying a word.

MARLENE

What the hell are you doing?

DANNY

Trying to go home.

MARLENE

Why didn't you take the promotion?

DANNY

Because I don't want it? Seemed a good enough reason.

MARLENE

He's gonna be so mad.

DANNY

Probably. But it's better this than taking the job and quitting in three weeks because I'm sick of dealing with bullshit.

MARLENE

You think it'd really be that different from what you're doing right now?

DANNY

I know it would be. I've been there before. How many happy managers have you worked for?

MARLENE

Okay. None.

DANNY

See.

Marlene pulls the receipt with the five stapled to it out of her apron.

MARLENE

You might as well take this back.

DANNY

You just can't leave it alone?

MARLENE

No.

DANNY

Use it for this.

He holds up the brown paper bag.

MARLENE

It's already paid for.

DANNY

Then put it in with your tips.

MARLENE

Not a chance. This goes in your pocket.

She shoves the bill, still attached to the receipt in to his pants pocket.

DANNY

This just feels really inappropriate.

MARLENE

You wish. Now go.

Ivan sticks his head out of his office.

IVAN  
Marlene.

MARLENE  
I'll be right there.

DANNY  
You better go.

MARLENE  
Leave. Now.

DANNY  
Ivan's calling.

IVAN  
Marlene.

MARLENE  
I'm coming.

Marlene heads to the office. Danny watches until she disappears in to the room.

Danny pulls the receipt with the five out. He tears the five off and puts it in his pocket. He fishes around and pulls out a ten. He staples it to the receipt and places it on top of Marlene's tip cup.

CUT TO:

EXT RESTAURANT PARKING LOT

Danny exits the restaurant, pulls out a cigarette and lights it. Again he notices the man sitting in the parking lot in a car. He is parked further away from the restaurant this time, slightly obscured by the few other cars.

Danny stands there for a long moment watching the man. The man does nothing more than sit there and watch him back.

Danny breaks the staring contest and leaves the parking lot.

CUT TO:

EXT CITY STREET

Around the corner and away from the restaurant Danny stops at a pay phone and makes a call.

IVAN (O.S.)

Hello.

DANNY

Hey, Ivan. Listen, there's some dude sitting in the parking lot. I saw him out there last night too.

IVAN (O.S.)

So?

DANNY

Just letting you know. If you guys are done there you might want to get the door locked and the money in the safe. Just in case he's casing the place.

IVAN (O.S.)

Casing?

DANNY

Checking it out.

IVAN

Checking it out for what?

DANNY

To rob you maybe?

IVAN (O.S.)

Oh, okay. Thank you Danny. We'll see you tomorrow.

DANNY

Yeah.

Danny hangs up the phone and keeps walking.

DANNY

Moron.

CUT TO:

EXT PREACHER'S CORNER

The Street Preacher is doing his little anxious dance, booklets in hand.

STREET PREACHER

Welcome back, brother.

Danny ignores him and continues walking by.

STREET PREACHER  
Have you found Jesus yet?

DANNY  
I didn't know he was lost. Did you try the methadone clinic? Junkies seem to find him all the time so he must be somewhere convenient for them.

STREET PREACHER  
You think you're being smart but you can find Him there. You can find Him everywhere. Jesus is in everything and everyone.

DANNY  
I feel really dirty right now.

CUT TO:

INT APARTMENT

Danny comes home to find the painting on the wall sits unfinished and untouched. Justice is on the balcony listening to something over a pair of headphones from an MP3 player. He pulls one side off to talk to Danny who tosses him a burger. Justice looks angry. They eat while they talk.

DANNY  
It amazes me that Jack doesn't get the Jesus beaten out of him on a daily basis.

JUSTICE  
I went by him today. He just keeps getting stranger. He never used to be that agitated. You have to stop feeding me.

DANNY  
Alright, let me pay for something.

JUSTICE  
Fine, keep feeding me, just give me a little variety.

Danny motions to the painting on the wall.

DANNY  
What happened?

JUSTICE

Muse decided to go for a walk.

DANNY

I hate it when that happens.

JUSTICE

Yeah, I'm convinced she walked in to a corner store in the middle of a robbery and got her fuckin' head blown off.

DANNY

You're in a good mood.

JUSTICE

Ah, it's just this thing I downloaded.

DANNY

Music?

JUSTICE

Yeah. I'm just gonna get all my shit together and sell it.

DANNY

That's random.

JUSTICE

Why not? What's the point? I grabbed a couple things this guy has recorded. Thirty seconds of listening to him and I'm ready to pack it in.

DANNY

Is he that bad?

JUSTICE

No, he's that good.

DANNY

So what? You grab something at random and use that as a comparison for everything you've ever written?

JUSTICE

It's not just something random. He posts at a lot of the same places I do. I'd never heard any of his stuff but people kept going on about it so I thought I'd check him out.

DANNY  
What kinda stuff?

JUSTICE  
A lot like mine, just good.

DANNY  
Yours is good too.

JUSTICE  
Fine. Then this is better.

He pulls the headphones off and chucks the whole unit in to the apartment.

JUSTICE  
Fuck it.

DANNY  
Shouldn't listening to something good be inspiring. Make you want to do something of your own?

JUSTICE  
Why? If some jack off from the Internet can do something like this and be no one what chance do I have?

DANNY  
Did you finish remixing your track before your fragile little world came tumbling in?

JUSTICE  
Yeah.

DANNY  
Can I hear it?

JUSTICE  
I guess so. I'll go grab it and we can head out.

Justice tosses half of his burger off the balcony.

DANNY  
You're kidding. Already?

JUSTICE  
Why not?

DANNY

I would like to shower after work eventually. You ever gonna let me do that?

JUSTICE

Probably not.

CUT TO:

EXT APARTMENT PARKING LOT

Danny and Justice, again with knapsack, are walking across the parking lot to a shitty hatchback parked in his space.

JUSTICE

What is that?

DANNY

It's my new car.

JUSTICE

When your new car is over a decade older than your last car it's not your new car. I saw it sitting here earlier and just thought you'd driven to work and some asshole parked in your spot.

DANNY

Nope, I just traded for it this morning.

JUSTICE

You're kidding me. Why would you trade what you had for this?

DANNY

All that car did was remind me of how much of an asshole I used to be.

Danny unlocks his door and gets in. He reaches across and unlocks the door and opens it for Justice.

JUSTICE

I gotta be honest, this car is telling me just how much of an asshole you are right now.

DANNY

Get in.

Justice sits down and closes the door behind himself.  
Justice' movements are very stiff as he shifts in his seat.

DANNY

So?

JUSTICE

It's like a rectal exam, only less comfortable. And you got an automatic too. Wonderful. Let me, guess, eight track?

DANNY

It's not that bad.

JUSTICE

The car itself, no. Compared to what you traded it in for? This is a shitty little automatic hatchback shit box.

DANNY

See, I knew you'd be jealous.

CUT TO:

EXT THE HIVE NIGHTCLUB

Again the door is already lined up around the building and Derrick is working the door. Danny and Justice walk right up to the door. Justice is carrying his knapsack.

JUSTICE

Hey Derrick.

Derrick nods.

DERRICK

Guys.

Again there are a few disgruntled groans from the line up.  
SOME GUY from the line speaks up.

SOME GUY

Whose dick do I have suck to get in to this place?

DERRICK  
Mine. And that's a different line  
up altogether, sweetheart.

CUT TO:

INT THE HIVE

Rachel is working the counter. Ron and Jerry are working the  
entrance.

RACHEL  
Justice.

Rachel leans over the counter and gives Justice a quick kiss  
on the cheek.

JUSTICE  
Hey.

RACHEL  
Danny.

DANNY  
Rachel.

Danny sets a twenty down on the counter.

RACHEL  
Thanks, babe.

Danny and Justice get stamped by Ron and start to walk  
through. Jerry stops them at the door.

JERRY  
Give it up Justice.

JUSTICE  
What the fuck directly is your  
problem?

JERRY  
You can gimme the bag or you're  
out. Your choice.

Justice takes the bag off his shoulder and tosses it at  
Jerry. Jerry opens the bag and begins sifting through it.

JUSTICE  
I don't think you'll find anything  
interesting in there. There's a CD,  
that might be shiny enough to grab  
your attention.

Jerry pulls a can of spray paint out of the bag.

JERRY

What's this for?

JUSTICE

I was gonna write, 'Jerry is a great big fag,' as big as I could across the washroom stalls. You know, just in case anyone was that far out of the loop that they didn't already know. You caught me.

Before Jerry can respond Ron pulls the bag and spray can out of his hands.

RON

Stop being a dick, Jerry.

Ron puts the spray can back in to the bag and hands it back to Justice.

RON

Have a good night guys.

Justice and Danny continue through in to the club.

JUSTICE

Thanks Ron.

DANNY

I'm gonna grab a drink. You need anything?

JUSTICE

Nah.

DANNY

You'll be at the DJ booth?

JUSTICE

Of course.

They part ways and Danny heads for the bar.

Stephanie is already there. She's got a chair pulled up at the bar with an empty chair beside her. In front of that chair a glass of scotch is waiting. Danny approaches the bar and sits down. Without a word he takes a drink.

STEPHANIE

That's a little presumptuous.

DANNY  
It is for me, isn't it?

STEPHANIE  
Of course.

DANNY  
So you're stalking me now?

STEPHANIE  
Hardly. Nice ink. It looks fresh.

DANNY  
Thanks, it is.

STEPHANIE  
I didn't know what kind of scotch  
you drank. I hope it's okay.

DANNY  
If you didn't know what kind I  
drank then how did you decide what  
to get me?

STEPHANIE  
I didn't, I just asked Frank. He  
said a whole bunch of names that I  
didn't recognize so I told him to  
give you something good.

Danny takes another drink.

STEPHANIE  
How is it?

DANNY  
It'll do.

CUT TO:

INT THE HIVE - LATER

Danny and Stephanie have found the quietest, darkest table  
there is in the bar.

STEPHANIE  
So what do you do?

DANNY  
You didn't ask Justice?

STEPHANIE

I did. He didn't tell me anything.  
So what do you do?

DANNY

As little as humanly possible.

STEPHANIE

Charming. You really know how to  
win the girls over with your sweet  
talk, don't ya?

DANNY

I'm not really the type to worry  
about what the girls think. The way  
things are now I'm just taking up  
space on Justice's couch and  
flipping burgers. Just existing.  
I've found it requires the least  
amount of effort.

STEPHANIE

Me too.

DANNY

Yeah, but you're young enough to  
get away with it.

STEPHANIE

You're not that old, Danny.

DANNY

Twenty seven.

STEPHANIE

Like I said, not that old.

DANNY

I'm old enough to know that  
everything I want in life isn't  
gonna be found in some faceless  
corporation sitting at a catalog  
ordered desk under fluorescent  
light being bludgeoned by the local  
adult contempo pop radio station in  
front a computer screen.

Danny notices Jerry at the other end of the bar staring a  
hole through him.

STEPHANIE

I think you've used all your free  
time to think about that way too  
much. And rehearse it.

DANNY

You're probably right.

STEPHANIE

And flipping burgers is your salvation?

DANNY

I'm not gonna find what I want doing that either but at least I have the freedom to look around. At least I can try new shit and figure out what I want. Basically anything from burger flipper is, at worst, a lateral step.

STEPHANIE

So what do you want?

DANNY

Haven't the faintest clue. It seems wrong to stop looking though.

STEPHANIE

You have to keep looking? You make it sound like you could die tomorrow and if you settled for a moment you'd be wasting your life.

DANNY

You have to trust the old guy.

STEPHANIE

Dirty little secret; I'm twenty five, Danny.

DANNY

Shut up.

STEPHANIE

Seriously.

DANNY

You're kidding, right?

STEPHANIE

I know. I look, like, fifteen, don't I? You're not that old. And every time you say you're old it just makes me feel old. So stop it.

DANNY

Okay. So what about you? What are you doing right now?

STEPHANIE

Converting oxygen.

DANNY

Otherwise?

STEPHANIE

Absolutely nothing.

DANNY

Okay, what did you used to do?

STEPHANIE

Dance.

DANNY

Like ballet, tap dance, line dance, that sort of thing?

STEPHANIE

Yeah, that sort of thing. But with a pole and less clothes.

Danny badly attempts to mock surprise.

DANNY

Oh.

STEPHANIE

I usually catch people off guard with that.

DANNY

I had an inkling. Even if I didn't I'm not that easily shocked.

STEPHANIE

Good. Dancing's actually how I met Jerry.

DANNY

Jerry doesn't strike me as a fan of the rippers.

STEPHANIE

He's not. I can't believe we dated for as long as we did.

DANNY

Really?

STEPHANIE

It wasn't anything serious, unless of course you asked him about it. As far as he was concerned we were set to be married and everything was gonna be perfect.

DANNY

Sounds wonderful.

STEPHANIE

He'd get me a nice little house in some suburban nightmare with a white picket fence and a three car garage. Our 2.4 kids could walk our dog and the rest of that dated 50's piece of Americana trash. But it's Jerry, you know? You really can't take any of it seriously.

DANNY

Sounds like I'm not the only who's had lots of time to think about what they don't want.

STEPHANIE

Can you picture it? Living like that?

DANNY

Not anymore

STEPHANIE

I can't. I'd rather just float and be happy. You know, it's not like I didn't like being around him. It wasn't that. It just seemed like his life revolved around things. Getting things and then using those things to get more things. It's the main reason I ended up cutting off the relationship.

DANNY

I can speak from experience, things are meaningless. They just train you to want more things. It's bullshit.

STEPHANIE

Whoever has the most toys when he dies wins?

DANNY

What they don't tell you is that it's all lies and in a heartbeat everything can be taken away from you. Having the world and being alone is worthless. Eventually everyone dies and all the shit that you had means nothing more than how your estate gets divided.

STEPHANIE

That's a little grim but I kinda get what your saying. I think I'd rather be happy with myself. Once I've achieved that then I'll worry about the rest of it.

DANNY

Speaking of Jerry, he's been watching us for close to ten minutes now.

STEPHANIE

Really? Where is he?

DANNY

Over by the bar. I'll tell you when it's safe to look.

STEPHANIE

I don't want to look.

Stephanie pulls her chair in close to Danny. She moves her face in very close to his, their lips are inches apart. She has her hands resting on his thighs. His left hand is very close to hers.

STEPHANIE

You know, this is probably driving him nuts right now.

DANNY

It's working for me too.

STEPHANIE

Really?

She reaches with a finger and runs it down the scar on Danny's left hand.

STEPHANIE  
Where did this come from?

DANNY  
I had an accident.

STEPHANIE  
Really?

DANNY  
It was a long time ago.

STEPHANIE  
That's vague.

DANNY  
I was a different person.

Stephanie moves in the extra inch and their lips touch. The moment they do LILY slams her hand down on the table. Danny and Stephanie both jump.

LILY  
It's time to go, whore.

STEPHANIE  
I'll be right there, Lil.

Lily doesn't move.

STEPHANIE  
Just give me a minute, Lily.

LILY  
No. We need to go and... we just need to go. Now. So let's go.

STEPHANIE  
All I need is a minute.

LILY  
If it's only taking you a minute you're not doing it right. So just get it done and get off your ass, bitch. We have better places to be.

STEPHANIE  
I hate you.

Stephanie leans over and gives Danny a really quick kiss. Lily stands there watching and tapping her toes the entire time.

LILY  
Come on.

STEPHANIE  
I'll see you later.

DANNY  
Definitely.

STEPHANIE  
Okay.

DANNY  
Thank you for the drink.

STEPHANIE  
It was my pleasure.

Lily finally grabs her by the arm and pulls her out of her seat.

STEPHANIE  
Ow. Impatient much?

LILY  
Skank.

Stephanie waves to Danny over her shoulder. Danny waves back, smiling.

CUT TO:

INT THE HIVE - LATER

Justice is waiting at the DJ booth. Danny is making his way across the dance floor.

JUSTICE  
What do you think?

DANNY  
This yours?

JUSTICE  
Yeah.

DANNY  
Wow. It's different. You said you made some changes, but wow. It sounds fuller.

JUSTICE  
Yeah, I did a shit load of layering  
today. What happened to Stephanie?

DANNY  
She was being called away. Couldn't  
stay I guess.

JUSTICE  
I saw you over there. That was  
getting intense.

DANNY  
All in good time.

Jerry walks by, he stares down Danny the entire way.

JUSTICE  
Hey, Jerry?

JERRY  
What?

JUSTICE  
Stop being a dick.

Jerry continues his walk by. The song changes over and the  
DJ meets Justice at the door to the DJ booth, CD in hand.

DJ  
Not bad.

JUSTICE  
See? I told you. I remixed the  
entire track, all the levels and  
the EQ. You gotta admit the guitars  
sound a lot better.

DJ  
Better than fucking terrible still  
leaves a lot of room in pretty  
rough territory.

JUSTICE  
There's no making you happy is  
there?

DJ  
Sure there is, put a real guitar in  
there.

The DJ goes back to his work.

DANNY

I think it sounds good.

JUSTICE

Thanks.

Danny is staring off across the dance floor.

DANNY

I don't believe it. Did I tell you about that guy who's been sitting in the parking lot at work the past two days?

JUSTICE

In passing, yeah.

DANNY

He's here.

JUSTICE

Where?

DANNY

On the other side of the bar.

Justice looks around.

JUSTICE

What the hell am I looking for? I have no idea who you're talking about.

DANNY

Don't worry about it.

JUSTICE

Maybe he's a cop.

DANNY

If he's a cop he's not a very good one. As far as that goes, why would a cop want to follow me around?

JUSTICE

Good point.

JUSTICE

I have another party. You interested?

DANNY

Same thing as last night?

JUSTICE

Different vibe, a little more private. A little freakier.

DANNY

No thanks. I never feel comfortable at those things.

JUSTICE

I feel like that in every day life. I think I'm about as close to an antisocial misanthropic troglodyte as you can get while still being able to function at a basic level in society.

DANNY

Great. I still think I'm gonna go home.

JUSTICE

Cool. Let me finish my drink and I'll go with you.

DANNY

What's with that?

JUSTICE

What?

DANNY

Every time I say I'm going you're right there ready to go. Why would you want to leave just to hang out with me? Go out, have a good time, hang out with other people.

JUSTICE

Honestly, most of those people are fucking idiots and I can barely stand to be in the same room as most of them for five minutes straight.

DANNY

Yeah, but I'm like ten years older than you.

JUSTICE

Seven.

DANNY

Not the point. You don't find that weird?

JUSTICE

It makes complete sense to me. I hang out with you, it's laid back; watch TV, grab something to eat. Or I can go to this party where I hate half the people and don't know the other half. In the end I feel guilty for telling the dude who's trying to pawn his shitty weed off on me to piss off and bother someone else. Thanks, but I can pass.

DANNY

Good point.

JUSTICE

Doesn't mean I won't go. I mean, I'm game if you are. And if it helps I'm pretty sure that's where Stephanie was dragged off to.

DANNY

Subtle.

JUSTICE

That's my specialty.

CUT TO:

EXT HOUSE - NIGHT

Danny and Justice are standing in front of a huge house. Lights can be seen flashing inside through the windows. The sound of a thick dance beat can be heard. They stare at the door.

JUSTICE

I love the burbs.

DANNY

You think it's big enough?

JUSTICE

Don't you check your e-mail? It's never big enough. And the wonderful music selection.

DANNY

It's exactly how I imagined hell.

JUSTICE

Really?

DANNY

Yeah. I've always figured it came with a three car garage.

Danny reaches for the door handle. Justice stops him.

JUSTICE

Once you open that door we're obligated to go in.

DANNY

I thought that was the point.

JUSTICE

Just giving you one last out. Take your time, think it through.

DANNY

I'm sure we'll survive.

Danny opens the door and they step inside.

CUT TO:

INT HOUSE

Danny and Justice step in to a huge foyer. A massive stair case runs up the middle and then splits off in each direction. To their left a room with people dancing, to their right people getting coked out of their skulls.

DANNY

Someone has too much bloody money.

They start working their way through the house. The continual theme being moving bodies and lots of coke. One girl is off in her own little world, dancing off in a corner to her own rhythm.

DANNY

Look at that. I doubt she even knows her own name right now.

Justice yells at her.

JUSTICE

Oi! You in there?

She's oblivious.

JUSTICE

Why are we here again?

They turn a corner that opens up in to the kitchen. Stephanie is there along with Lily and more people. They seem more intent on conversation and booze than the rest of the house. Stephanie sees Danny walk in to the room.

STEPHANIE

Sexy man.

She's immediately up and wrapped around Danny. She kisses him.

STEPHANIE

You've kinda met Lily.

DANNY

Hey.

Lily puts forth little more than a snotty wave.

STEPHANIE

She's not in a very good mood tonight and she won't tell me why.

LILY

You know.

CUT TO:

INT HOUSE - LATER

Danny, Stephanie and Justice are all sitting on the huge staircase in the foyer. Off to the side Lily is just inside one of the rooms chatting with someone. She is constantly looking over to their conversation.

STEPHANIE

I was a little surprised to see you here.

DANNY

Why is that?

STEPHANIE

Doesn't seem like your kinda party.

DANNY

It's not.

STEPHANIE

Tell you the truth, it's not for me either. I'm only here because of Lily.

JUSTICE

He's only here because of me.

STEPHANIE

This doesn't seem like your scene either, Jus.

JUSTICE

Alright, fine. It's not. We're here for you.

DANNY

Hey Justice, what's that over there?

Danny points over to TAMRA, one of the few people dancing that doesn't look like they're ready to fall over from excess.

JUSTICE

I'm sorry, what was that? Three's a crowd? Oh that? I think that's something I need to go talk to.

Justice gets up and makes his way over to Tamra.

STEPHANIE

The truth comes out. You're here for me. You love me. I'm beautiful and irresistible. You can't resist me. It's true.

DANNY

Part of it's true anyway.

STEPHANIE

Blasphemer.

Stephanie leans in and kisses Danny.

DANNY  
What was that for?

STEPHANIE  
For the proper kiss I didn't get  
before I left the club.

DANNY  
Ahh.

STEPHANIE  
So who's Julia?

DANNY  
Excuse me?

STEPHANIE  
Your tattoo says Julia. Is she the  
absent wife?

DANNY  
You know Braille?

STEPHANIE  
My little brother is blind. My  
whole family learned how to read  
it, except for my dad. So who's  
Julia?

DANNY  
Someone I lost a long time ago. I  
don't think that it's something we  
really need to talk about.

STEPHANIE  
Fair enough.

There is a long silence. Lily maintains her vigil.

STEPHANIE  
I need to ask you something.

DANNY  
Okay.

STEPHANIE  
It's important. Something I need to  
ask you in private. Come with me.

Stephanie gets up, grabs Danny by the hand and leads him  
upstairs.

CUT TO:

INT WASHROOM

Stephanie steps in to the washroom and Danny follows in right behind her. They close the door.

STEPHANIE

Well now, we have privacy.

She checks behind the shower curtain.

STEPHANIE

And it definitely looks like we're alone.

Stephanie pulls Danny into her.

DANNY

That's not a question.

STEPHANIE

Well, hear me out.

Stephanie kisses Danny. He kisses her in return.

As they kiss they back in to the sink counter. Danny lifts Stephanie up and sits her on the counter. They never miss a beat. Immediately Stephanie is clawing at Danny's clothes trying to get his shirt up. Danny pulls away.

STEPHANIE

That's not what I was expecting.

DANNY

I'm sorry. I can't do this. I don't feel comfortable doing this.

STEPHANIE

You know you don't have to make up bullshit, you can just say you're not interested.

DANNY

It's not you. It's my wife.

STEPHANIE

I thought that was something we really didn't need to talk about. You are married to a woman named Julia, aren't you?

DANNY

This is really, really fast for me.

STEPHANIE

I thought it was a long time ago?

DANNY

It was.

STEPHANIE

I thought this was what you wanted.

Someone bangs on the bathroom door.

DANNY

We're busy.

There's another bang.

STEPHANIE

Ocupado, fuck off!

Another bang.

LILY (O.S.)

You're not fucking and if you are you're talking way more than you should be. So either shut up and finish fucking or let me in so I can take a piss.

STEPHANIE

You figure out what you want. Come find me when you do.

Stephanie unlocks the door and lets Lily in.

LILY

Thank you.

Danny begins to exit the washroom.

STEPHANIE

Take your time Danny. I'm not going anywhere.

CUT TO:

INT HOUSE MAIN FOYER

Justice is sitting with Tamra on the stairs. Danny stomps by him as he walks down the steps. He taps Justice on the shoulder on his way by.

DANNY  
I'm outta here.

JUSTICE  
Wait

Danny doesn't stop. He's down the stairs and out the door.

JUSTICE  
I'm really sorry. I have to deal  
with this.

TAMRA  
It's okay.

JUSTICE  
You know where to find me.

TAMRA  
I do.

Justice is up and down the stairs.

JUSTICE  
Come find me.

TAMRA  
I will.

Justice is out the door.

CUT TO:

INT CAR

Danny and Justice are driving down the street.

DANNY  
Sorry.

JUSTICE  
Don't apologize.

DANNY  
It got really uncomfortable really  
fast.

JUSTICE  
No worries. That Tamra chick was  
hot but I wasn't the one getting it  
on in the bathroom so you can  
imagine how bored I was.

Silence.

JUSTICE

You gotta remember, I didn't have to leave.

DANNY

No, but you did anyway and you did it because of me. I still feel like I should apologize.

JUSTICE

It's okay and I'm probably not the person you need to apologize to. If I were you I'd just stop fighting it.

DANNY

Stop fighting what?

JUSTICE

Yeah, feign innocence. That Stephanie chick is hot.

DANNY

Yeah, she is.

JUSTICE

Okay, so what are you waiting for?

DANNY

I get this feeling like she doesn't know what she wants.

JUSTICE

Yeah, it looked like that the way she hung off you all night. She's the one who doesn't know what she wants.

DANNY

That's not what I'm looking for. I don't even know her, how am I supposed to want her?

JUSTICE

You're full of shit. And apparently too good to stop.

DANNY

What are you talking about?

JUSTICE  
You just went through a stop sign.

DANNY  
Where?

JUSTICE  
At the corner back there.

DANNY  
There's no stop sign there.

JUSTICE  
They just put it up.

DANNY  
When?

JUSTICE  
Last week I think.

DANNY  
You're full of it.

JUSTICE  
Turn around. I'll show it to you.

DANNY  
Back by that terrible diner?

JUSTICE  
Yeah.

DANNY  
You think they'd put up some signs  
or something to let people know  
there's a new stop sign there.

JUSTICE  
You want a sign for a stop sign?

DANNY  
I don't think that's unreasonable.

JUSTICE  
You know for most people the stop  
sign does the trick.

CUT TO:

INT APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Danny is sitting on the couch as the sun is just starting to creep in to the apartment. He is smoking and doodling on a piece of paper.

Justice stumbles out of the hallway still half asleep. He sits down in a chair by the table.

DANNY

Good morning.

JUSTICE

Morning. I never knew you drew.

DANNY

A little. I'm better sitting in front of a computer. Before I drove out here it's what I did for a living, design. It's nice to know it hasn't disappeared.

JUSTICE

And now you're flipping burgers. It surprises me more and more each day how willing you are to underachieve.

Danny shrugs.

DANNY

I live to impress.

JUSTICE

That's kinda cool. How long you been working on that for?

DANNY

About fifteen minutes.

JUSTICE

Mind if I scan it, use it for CD labels?

DANNY

Be my guest.

JUSTICE

How long have you been up for?

DANNY

Not long, maybe forty five minutes.

JUSTICE

Why?

DANNY

I've been waiting for you to get up. I was thinking we could head out for breakfast. On me, to apologize for last night.

JUSTICE

Free breakfast is good for any reason.

CUT TO:

INT DINER

Danny and Justice sit in a scummy little diner with no other customers. The menu is cheap and stained and the help is lacking.

JUSTICE

Of all the places. We need to switch spots. That way you can watch the stop sign over your entire breakfast.

DANNY

We can't. I have to face the door.

JUSTICE

Why?

DANNY

Diner's always freak me out. I'm half expecting some guy to come bursting in wearing a ski mask and carrying a shot gun.

JUSTICE

You're insane.

DANNY

Yes, I am.

JUSTICE

I think you picked a winner this time. The menu stellar. I can't imagine picking just one thing.

DANNY

Isn't it customary on a Saturday morning to have customers.

JUSTICE

Yeah, it's not really stoking my faith. Either they wipe their ass with the toast or it's a mob front. I'm hoping for mob front.

DANNY

I think we're about to find out.

A WAITER (40s) approaches the table. His uniform consists of dirty jeans, a yellowed T-shirt, and a ratty apron. He has very bad teeth. Justice immediately tenses up.

WAITER

Sorry for the wait. What can I get you?

DANNY

Coffee, orange juice, and the steak and eggs.

WAITER

How do you want those?

DANNY

Cooked. Doesn't matter. I'm not picky.

WAITER

And what can I get for you?

JUSTICE

I'm fine. Thank you.

WAITER

Nothing today?

JUSTICE

No thanks.

DANNY

You don't want something to drink?

JUSTICE

No. I'm okay.

WAITER

Alright. I'll be right back with your coffee and OJ.

The waiter walks away. Danny lights up a cigarette.

DANNY

What was that about?

JUSTICE

Just a rule I have.

DANNY

Okay.

JUSTICE

I can't trust someone to serve me food when they lack the basic hygiene required to take care of their own teeth.

DANNY

Did he have bad teeth?

JUSTICE

Were you not looking at him?

DANNY

Yeah. I just wasn't really paying attention I guess.

JUSTICE

I don't understand how you missed it. There's no way I can eat anything he's touched.

DANNY

Fair enough. I forgot to tell you Ivan offered me a promotion, kitchen manager.

JUSTICE

Nice. How much?

DANNY

Twenty nine five.

JUSTICE

Sweet. When does that start?

DANNY

It doesn't. I turned it down.

JUSTICE

What for?

DANNY

I wasn't interested. More hours for a relative fraction of a pay increase and a shit load more responsibility. Basically, my position would exist to ensure that Ivan could spend even more time sitting on his fat ass.

JUSTICE

I can't believe you turned it down. I'd kill for a decent paying job.

DANNY

Yeah, until you worked it for two months and realized just how miserable it is.

JUSTICE

Are you kidding me? More cash, more stability, decent work experience. I can see all the downfalls.

DANNY

If you need cash just tell me. I've always said that.

JUSTICE

It's not about the fucking cash, Danny. I don't need your money.

DANNY

Fine. At least take a bit of it and then we can move to a two bedroom in a better neighborhood. Maybe even get me in to a proper bed.

JUSTICE

I don't want to move either.

DANNY

Then why does it matter so much?

The waiter returns with an orange juice and coffee and sets them on the table in front of Danny.

WAITER

Anything else?

DANNY

No, I think we're okay.

WAITER

Your meal will be out in a couple of minutes.

The waiter walks away.

DANNY

Why does it matter anyway?

JUSTICE

Given that opportunity I would have taken it in a heartbeat.

DANNY

It was a shitty promotion.

JUSTICE

Shitty promotion or not, something like that is really my only ticket. I don't have any school, I don't have any experience, and I can't make it anywhere except for where I am right now.

DANNY

You under estimate yourself.

JUSTICE

Bullshit. I will never make a six figure salary. Chances are, I'll never even hit mid five. All I've got is music and the more money I'm making the more money I have to invest back in to it. Haven't you noticed that every spare cent I have goes in to gear. It's either music or I work my ass until I'm 85. Even then I probably won't have enough to retire. That's why it pisses me off that you're so quick to dismiss shit like this.

DANNY

You want the job? I'll go talk to Ivan tomorrow.

JUSTICE

Don't make jokes. I'm serious. You could go out right now and find a design job making triple what you are and your life wouldn't change a bit. That's really hard to swallow sitting on this side of the table.

JUSTICE  
I would kill for an opportunity  
like that.

CUT TO:

EXT CITY STREET

Danny and Justice are walking down the street.

JUSTICE  
I hit you with both barrels there.

DANNY  
It's okay. You're right.

JUSTICE  
You're damn right I'm right. There  
comes a point where you have to dig  
in and just go with it wherever it  
takes you.

DANNY  
I already did that once. I wasn't  
very impressed with the results.

As they are walking by a music store Justice stops and looks  
in the window to a guitar on display. Danny keeps walking  
for a few steps.

JUSTICE  
I love this place.

Danny looks over his shoulder and realizes that Justice has  
stopped. He back tracks and looks at the same guitar.

JUSTICE  
It's nice isn't it?

DANNY  
You play guitar?

JUSTICE  
Yeah, I haven't played in almost a  
year though.

DANNY  
Six months for me. Not since I  
diced up my hand. I wrapped my last  
guitar around a bed post in a  
drunken rage after realizing I'd  
probably never really play again.

JUSTICE

I had to sell mine for hardware.

Like that Justice is done looking and continues walking. Danny stays and eyes the guitar a little bit longer.

JUSTICE

Hey, Danny. You see that big red thing up the road?

Justice points up the street to the stop sign.

DANNY

Yeah, what about it?

JUSTICE

Kinda hard to miss, huh?

DANNY

Give it a rest.

Danny catches up to Justice.

DANNY

Next time I can't say I didn't know.

CUT TO:

EXT RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Danny is standing outside the restaurant just finishing a cigarette. He steps on the butt and heads inside.

CUT TO:

INT RESTAURANT DINING ROOM

He walks through the dining room. There are a few tables with customers. As he walks through he smiles and waves to Marlene. She waves back and continues makes the rounds with a coffee pot. Danny enters the kitchen

CUT TO:

INT RESTAURANT KITCHEN

Danny walks through the kitchen, TOM is working the grill.

DANNY  
Hey Tom. Busy day?

TOM  
Not too bad.

Danny walks over to the schedule posted on the wall. He looks it over and tears it down.

TOM  
What's up Danny?

Without responding Danny storms out of kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT RESTAURANT OFFICE

Danny storms in to Ivan's office and slams the door. Ivan is on the phone.

DANNY  
What's this shit?

He holds up the schedule.

IVAN  
I'll call you back, okay?

Ivan hangs up the phone.

IVAN  
Keep your voice down, Danny.

DANNY  
I wanna know what the hell is going on, Ivan. You've got me working one day next week. You've given Tom all my shifts.

IVAN  
You gave me no choice Danny.

DANNY  
That's crap. You said yourself, I'm already doing the work. How does that leave you with no choice?

IVAN

I need someone to do the job as well as the work. It's been too long since someone has done it. I wanted the person to be you Danny, but you have better places to be it would seem.

DANNY

So you give my hours to Tom? Good call on the replacement.

IVAN

I haven't told Tom yet. You can still have the job if you want it.

DANNY

What, you couldn't bribe me so now you're trying to blackmail me?

IVAN

I need someone to do that job, someone to take responsibility. This is business. My business. You can't take it personally.

DANNY

Oh, well. Don't take this personally but go fuck yourself.

Danny exits the office before Ivan can respond.

CUT TO:

INT RESTAURANT DINING ROOM

Danny storms through the dining room and stops at the front door. The man in the parking lot is back again. He is just backing in to a spot. Danny doubles back through the dining room and in to the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT RESTAURANT KITCHEN

TOM

Are you gonna start soon? I was hopin' to get out of here soon.

Danny crumples up the schedule in his hand and tosses it at Tom.

DANNY  
It's your kitchen. You figure it  
out.

Danny walks out the back door.

CUT TO:

EXT RESTAURANT

The heavy metal door swings closed behind him. There is little more than dumpsters and trees. Danny works his way around the building trying to stay hidden. He works his way around the parking lot and behind the mans car.

Inside the car the man is smoking a cigarette and watching the restaurant. His radio is playing and his arm is dangling out of the window. Danny, crouched, quietly works his way up the side of the car.

Danny stands, grabs the man around the neck and pulls him out of the car window. He wrestles the man to the ground and holds him there, a hand on his throat. The man never loses his cigarette.

DANNY  
Who are you?

The man just croaks. Danny loosens his grip a little.

DANNY  
Who are you?

He struggles to get the words out under Danny's grip.

PETER  
Peter. My name's Peter Watts.

DANNY  
Why are you following me?

PETER  
I was hired to. I'm a private  
investigator.

Danny lets go of him and stands up. Peter coughs but doesn't get up.

DANNY  
Oh man. Jesus. Jude sent you out  
here?

PETER

Yeah.

DANNY

She paid you to track me down.

Danny screams. Peter continues coughing.

DANNY

She's keeping tabs on me? You tell her to leave me alone. The last thing I need right now is to be reminded. I left it all there for a reason.

Danny starts walking away.

DANNY

I don't ever want to see you again.

Peter brings his cigarette to his mouth and lays there smoking.

CUT TO:

EXT CITY STREET

Danny is walking like a madman. He's fuming as he passes by the street preacher.

STREET PREACHER

Christ is the lord.

Danny gives him the finger.

DANNY

What a shitty kingdom to rule.

The street preacher remains silent.

CUT TO:

INT APARTMENT LIVING ROOM

Justice is back once again painting on the wall. This time he is painting over with another color, incorporating the design that Danny was doodling earlier. Danny walks through the door.

JUSTICE

I thought you were working tonight?

DANNY

I think I just quit. I figured out who that asshole I keep seeing everywhere is, some private dick my mother in law hired to keep tabs on me.

JUSTICE

What do you mean you quit?

DANNY

I mean Ivan dropped me down to one shift a week, I told him eat it and I walked out. I pulled the private dick out of his car. I think I might have hurt him.

Justice stops painting.

JUSTICE

Who are you?

DANNY

Same old guy. Who are you?

JUSTICE

I'm just a kid trying to figure out what path to take in life. And, bullshit, you are not the same old guy. I watched you shrug after watching some asshole tear the CD player out of your car. That's not the guy who moved in here six months ago.

DANNY

What are you talking about?

JUSTICE

This. All of this. You're beating up private detectives, you tell your boss to get fucked, you get pissed off because someone cares about you enough to track you down. Who the fuck are you?

Danny holds up his hand and shows his tattooed band.

DANNY

This is who I am. The guy who had everything planned, who had a perfect life laid out in front of him. And in one second it was taken away. Thirty seconds away from the church and my wife dies holding my hand on my wedding day.

JUSTICE

I always wondered about that tatt.

DANNY

Now you know. I'm the guy who got the tattoo because they had to cut my wedding band off my finger. I can't be that other person anymore.

JUSTICE

I'm sorry, Danny. I really am but that's bullshit. You're the man who likes to hide behind an excuse. Look at you. You lost so much, you loved her so much that you ran away from her as far as you could. When was the last time you were at her grave?

DANNY

I don't know where it is.

JUSTICE

You don't know where it is.

There is a long pause.

DANNY

You don't know.

JUSTICE

You're right I don't. I've dealt with my ghosts and I'm a lot happier not having to carry all that shit around on my back all the time.

DANNY

It's not the same.

JUSTICE

You make one mention of my mother and it's gonna get violent.

Another tense silence.

JUSTICE

You need to get your shit together.

Justice walks out the front door and the apartment falls silent.

CUT TO:

I/E BALCONY - NIGHT

Danny is sitting on the balcony smoking a cigarette looking down at the parking lot below. He tosses his cigarette and heads back inside.

CUT TO:

INT APARTMENT LIVING ROOM

Danny grabs a pen and a piece of paper. He scribbles on the paper, tosses the pen and exits the apartment, paper in hand.

CUT TO:

INT APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY

Danny slaps the paper up on the door over top of a nail sticking out of it. The paper reads simply: GONE OUT

CUT TO:

EXT THE HIVE

Danny walks up, the situation is the same as previous nights. Again Derrick is working the door.

DANNY

Have you see Justice tonight?

DERRICK

Not yet.

DANNY

Good. How about Stephanie?

DERRICK

She's in there.

DANNY

Thanks.

DERRICK

No problem man.

CUT TO:

INT THE HIVE

Danny steps in to the lobby. Ron and Jerry are working the door. Rachel is behind the counter. Danny places a ten on the counter.

RACHEL

Hey, hon.

DANNY

Hey.

He walks up to Ron and holds his hand out to be stamped. Without a word he's stamped and on his way in.

No more than five steps in Jerry stops him.

JERRY

We need to talk Danny, man to man.

DANNY

Every time someone says man to man a little part of me dies.

JERRY

This is serious.

DANNY

What could we possibly have in common that we would need to talk about Jerry?

JERRY

Stephanie.

DANNY

I'm in shock.

JERRY

You need to stay away from her.

DANNY

Really? Why is that?

JERRY

She's with me.

DANNY

You might want to tell her that then. She told me otherwise.

JERRY

We're going through a rough patch but it'll work itself out as long as you stay out of the way. She's my girl, Danny.

DANNY

I'll be sure to tell her that when she wakes up tomorrow morning.

Danny walks away. Jerry watches as he crosses the bar and makes a bee line for Stephanie. Danny takes a glance over his shoulder and smiles back to Jerry.

Danny approaches Stephanie from behind and wraps his arms around her waist.

DANNY

Hi.

Stephanie glances over her shoulder at him. She turns, hugs him and kisses him.

STEPHANIE

Hey. I owe you an apology. I was really harsh last night.

DANNY

Me first. I think I need to explain a few things.

Stephanie grabs him by the hand and starts pulling him toward a quiet corner of the bar. He resists.

DANNY

Here's fine. All you need is the short version for now. My wife died in a car accident; the same one I hurt my hand in. It was our wedding day and we were leaving the church.

STEPHANIE

Oh my God.

DANNY

That's what the tattoo's are for.  
The ring, her name, everything. But  
that's not why I'm here. You were  
right last night. I've spent six  
months being a miserable asshole. I  
need to figure out what I want and  
right now, I wanna have a good  
time.

STEPHANIE

Sounds good to me.

Stephanie calls over to Frank.

STEPHANIE

Scotch. Same as the other night.

Danny motions 'no' to Frank. Stephanie turns around, she  
looks confused.

DANNY

Not tonight.

STEPHANIE

You just said...

DANNY

Yeah. And I don't want you to think  
any of this is because I'm drunk. I  
don't know, Steph. I like you.

STEPHANIE

I like you too.

CUT TO:

INT THE HIVE - LATER

Danny and Stephanie are sitting back in the corner again.  
Danny is smoking a cigarette and Stephanie is nestled as  
close as she can possibly be to him. At a discrete distance  
Jerry makes a round past them not hiding the fact that he's  
watching them.

STEPHANIE

It's been almost a month now.

DANNY

Since what?

STEPHANIE

Since I cut him loose. It's not like we even dated for that long. He's really gotta get over this.

Stephanie sneaks in an obvious kiss and then steals Danny's cigarette.

STEPHANIE

Maybe the more he sees me not with him the more he'll get it.

Jerry walks away. As he does he passes Lily. They make a quick unheard exchange.

STEPHANIE

Wonderful. That's exactly what I needed. Conspiracy.

Lily storms up to the table.

LILY

I need to talk to you.

STEPHANIE

So talk.

LILY

No. I need to talk to you.

STEPHANIE

I jumped when you asked me to last night. I'm not gonna do it tonight. You got something to say?

LILY

This is stupid.

STEPHANIE

You're right. This is stupid.

STEPHANIE

Just come talk to me for a minute.

STEPHANIE

I don't feel like it right now. Spit it out or we can talk later.

Lily winds up with something to say, swallows it and walks away.

STEPHANIE  
Jesus, she's been bitchy lately.

CUT TO:

INT THE HIVE - LATER

Danny and Stephanie are on the dance floor. Lily storms up and grabs her by the arm and pulls her away. Danny stands there and watches.

STEPHANIE  
What is your problem?

LILY  
It's the only way I could get your attention.

STEPHANIE  
What is wrong with you?

LILY  
Nothing. What's wrong with you?

STEPHANIE  
There's nothing wrong with me.

LILY  
Really? Then maybe you can tell me why you've been blowing me off all night.

STEPHANIE  
Don't you think you're exaggerating a little?

LILY  
No. This guy shows up and all of a sudden you're too good for me.

STEPHANIE  
I'm just having a good time. I like this guy. I thought you'd understand that. I didn't know that I had to hold your hand all night.

LILY  
That's not it and you know it. But that's fine. You wanna blow me off, whatever. I can deal. Have you thought about what this is doing to Jerry?

STEPHANIE

Honestly, Lily? I couldn't give a fuck about what this is doing to Jerry.

LILY

Really? You haven't noticed him walk by every five minutes?

STEPHANIE

No. Like I said, I've been busy having a good time.

LILY

Not too busy to rub it in his face.

STEPHANIE

He's a big boy. If anything he's doing it to himself.

LILY

Is this payback for something?

STEPHANIE

Fuck off.

LILY

Are you trying to hurt him? Is this like some kinda game to you?

STEPHANIE

You know what, Lil? If you're so worried about Jerry why don't you go fuck him.

Stephanie turns to walk back to Danny. Lily tries to grab her arm. Stephanie shakes her off.

STEPHANIE

Back off.

Stephanie goes back to Danny and picks up right where she left off.

DANNY

You okay?

STEPHANIE

It'll pass, but until it does she can go sulk in a corner. I'm not letting her ruin my night.

She grabs Danny by the hand and starts pulling him off the dance floor.

STEPHANIE  
Let's get some privacy.

CUT TO:

INT THE HIVE WOMEN'S WASHROOM - LATER

Danny and Stephanie are in a stall, with some pretty heavy business going on. They're both fully dressed but Danny has her pinned up against one of the stall walls. Stephanie is wrapped around Danny, legs and arms.

There is a loud bang on the stall door.

JERRY  
Open the door.

Danny and Stephanie stop what their doing. They try to take a moment to sort themselves out. There is another bang at the door.

JERRY  
Open up.

Danny slides the lock over and opens up the door. Jerry is standing there.

DANNY  
Uh oh, Dad's home.

Danny and Stephanie both start laughing.

JERRY  
You're out. Let's go.

They laugh harder. Jerry grabs Danny by the arm and pulls him out of the stall. Stephanie follows behind him.

JERRY  
Out. Now.

Danny and Stephanie walk out of the washroom. Jerry follows them out, his hand on Danny's shoulder the entire way.

CUT TO:

EXT THE HIVE

Derrick is holding the front door. Stephanie walks out and is followed by Danny who is pushed out by Jerry. Right behind Jerry is Lily following up his path.

JERRY

It better be a long time before I see you again.

DANNY

Always a pleasure.

JERRY

C'mon back in Steph.

Stephanie scoffs at him and grabs Danny's hand.

STEPHANIE

Stop being a dick Jerry.

Stephanie leads Danny down the stairs and away from the bar.

CUT TO:

EXT THE HIVE PARKING LOT

Danny and Stephanie are walking through the parking lot to his car. They are very close and hands are roaming while they walk. They approach Danny's car.

DANNY

Another bar, maybe? A few more drinks.

Stephanie just shakes her head.

STEPHANIE

No.

DANNY

Okay. Then what?

Stephanie turns Danny and presses him up against his car and lays a big kiss on him.

STEPHANIE

You need to come home with me.

DANNY

That I can do.

CUT TO:

INT DANNY'S CAR

Danny and Stephanie are driving. Stephanie has her hand running up and down Danny's leg. In turn Danny has a hand across the back of her seat and is running his fingers down her neck.

DANNY

What is it with you and washrooms?

STEPHANIE

Convenience.

Stephanie chuckles to herself.

DANNY

What?

STEPHANIE

You're pretty damn cute, you know that?

DANNY

That's funny?

STEPHANIE

No. You're the absolute opposite of everything I was expecting.

DANNY

Is that good or bad?

STEPHANIE

Good. I'm glad I'm here with you now.

DANNY

Me too.

Stephanie moves her hand up and touches Danny's cheek. Danny turns and looks at her. His eyes go wide as she's outlined by a headlight.

CUT TO:

EXT CITY STREET

A car slams in to the side of Danny's car accompanied by the sound of metal on metal. There is a moment of silence after the two cars come to rest.

CUT TO:

INT DANNY'S CAR

Danny is a little banged up, his forehead is bleeding but he is otherwise fine. He looks over to the seat beside him. Stephanie is there, unconscious, bloodied, and covered in glass. He lifts her head up.

DANNY

No, no, no.

He undoes his own seat belt and then hers. He opens his door and pulls her out of the car over the driver seat still repeating himself. They are at the intersection by the diner.

DANNY

No, no, no.

He lays her down gently on the pavement. He's doing his awkward best to wake her.

DANNY

Oh God, come on Stephanie.

A short FAT MAN, the driver of the other car, waddles around the car.

FAT MAN

I'm so sorry. I forgot they put a new stop sign in.

He continues waddling his way over to them.

DANNY

Come on, Steph. Please wake up.

FAT MAN

Is she okay?

In a heartbeat Danny is up and punches the man hard in the jaw. He sends the fat man sprawling. He lays a boot in to his side and is just as quickly back down at Stephanie side. The fat man starts blubbering as he crawls away toward the curb, his mouth bleeding.

FAT MAN

You hit me in the mouth! I can't believe you hit me in the mouth.

DANNY

Steph?

FAT MAN  
Am I bleeding?

Stephanie opens her eyes a little.

STEPHANIE  
Danny?

DANNY  
I'm right here. Are you okay?

STEPHANIE  
I think I'm okay. What happened?  
You're bleeding.

FAT MAN  
I am bleeding. What did you hit me  
in the mouth for?

Danny reaches up and touches his lip.

STEPHANIE  
Your forehead.

Danny touches the gash on his forehead. He winces at the touch.

DANNY  
It's just a cut. I'm okay.

STEPHANIE  
We were driving, what happened?

DANNY  
We were in an accident.

STEPHANIE  
An accident? Oh no. Are you okay?

Stephanie tries to sit up and reaches up for Danny's face at the same time. She misses his face and falls back toward the ground. Danny catches her and helps her down

STEPHANIE  
That wasn't good.

DANNY  
I'm okay. Just relax.

STEPHANIE  
Okay.

DANNY  
Are you okay?

STEPHANIE  
My head hurts.

DANNY  
Your bleeding a little but I  
promise everything is gonna be  
okay.

An OLD WOMAN in her house coat comes out of her apartment  
above a business.

OLD WOMAN  
Is everyone okay?

DANNY  
Call an ambulance.

OLD WOMAN  
I already did. They're on their  
way.

DANNY  
You hear that? An ambulance is on  
the way. Everything's gonna be just  
fine.

Stephanie smiles and puts her hand on Danny's face.

STEPHANIE  
I had a really good time tonight.

Danny starts to well up.

DANNY  
So did I.

CUT TO:

INT HOSPITAL EXAM CURTAIN - LATER

Danny is pacing a small curtained off exam area. His  
forehead has been cleaned up and bandaged. His clothes are  
dotted with blood. He doesn't pace for long before a NURSE  
enters the curtained area.

DANNY  
How's Stephanie?

NURSE

The pretty girl you came in with is fine. As for you it's just a bit of a bump. Doctor's confident that you can go home now.

DANNY

Is she done too?

NURSE

Not yet, sugar.

DANNY

Where is she? Can I see her?

NURSE

She's in a room and no you can't. But you're all done here.

The Nurse pulls the curtain aside.

NURSE

If you need it there's a phone just down at the end of the hall. There's also direct lines for a cab.

DANNY

No thanks. Where's the waiting room?

NURSE

Don't waste your time. We need to keep her for at least twelve hours. That's a long time to be sitting in an uncomfortable chair. Do yourself a favor, go home and rest.

DANNY

What's wrong with her?

NURSE

Nothing you need to worry yourself about. All in all she's fine, she just needs a little more attention than you did. Now go home.

The Nurse starts walking away.

DANNY

But.

NURSE

No buts, no ands, no ifs. You'll  
just have to trust me sugar.  
Everything is fine.

Danny stands there for a moment before exiting the curtained area.

CUT TO:

EXT HOSPITAL

Danny is sitting outside the hospital doors smoking a cigarette and staring at the pavement. Jerry walks up and stops in front of him. Danny looks up.

DANNY

Jerry?

Danny stands.

DANNY

What are you doing here?

Jerry punches him in the nose, sending Danny to the pavement. On his hands and knees Danny starts getting up. Jerry grabs him by the neck and puts a knee in his back forcing him back down to the ground.

JERRY

Don't you dare get up. I warned  
you, didn't I? I told you to stay  
away. But no. Instead I get a phone  
call from Steph's parents at four  
thirty in the morning.

Jerry removes his knee from Danny's back and lets go of his neck. Danny rolls over on to his back.

JERRY

I mean it, don't fucking get up.

Danny reaches over and retrieves the lit cigarette he lost in the scuffle and continues smoking.

DANNY

Why would her parents call you?

JERRY

Because they live six hours away.  
I'm the only person they know out  
here. She tell you what I did? What  
I got her out of?

DANNY

Oh yeah, very noble. You're a saint  
Jerry.

Jerry kicks him in the ribs.

JERRY

You deserved that. You know you  
deserved that, right?

Danny coughs out his response.

DANNY

Probably.

A cop car drives by and slows down, pulling to the curb on  
the opposite side of the street.

JERRY

I'm not gonna do this with you,  
Danny. This back and forth  
bullshit. There is no you from now  
on. Are we clear? You're done. Now  
I'm goin' to check on Stephanie.

Jerry begins to enter the hospital.

JERRY

It better be a long time before I  
see you again, Danny. I mean it  
this time. For your own sake.

DANNY

Hey Jerry.

Jerry stops halfway in the door.

JERRY

Yeah?

DANNY

Stop being a dick.

Jerry starts to come back out and the cop car pulls in to  
the driveway. Jerry turns and heads in to the hospital.

JERRY

Disappear Danny.

Jerry disappears in to the hospital. Danny sits up as the  
cop car pulls up in front of the hospital. A COP gets out.

COP  
Everything okay here, sir?

Danny spits out some blood.

DANNY  
Everything's just peachy.

CUT TO:

EXT CITY STREET - JUST BEFORE DAWN

Danny is shuffling along, his face is swollen. The street preacher is up ahead, sedated compared to earlier.

DANNY  
Don't you ever sleep?

STREET PREACHER  
Don't you?

DANNY  
Point taken.

The street preacher holds out a pamphlet.

STREET PREACHER  
It's not too late.

DANNY  
It'll always be too late.

The street preacher reaches out and grabs Danny's hand.

STREET PREACHER  
I'm just trying to help you.

Danny grabs the man by the shirt and throws him up against a wall. He pins him there, his forearm pressed across his neck leaving barely enough room to breath.

DANNY  
I don't need your goddamn help.

STREET PREACHER  
Then I offer my forgiveness.

DANNY  
I don't need that either.

STREET PREACHER  
God has forgiven you.

DANNY  
Wonderful. I'll sleep better  
tonight.

Danny looks at the man long and hard before letting him go.  
He continues to walk away.

STREET PREACHER  
Maybe you should try forgiving  
yourself.

Danny doesn't look back.

CUT TO:

I/E BALCONY - MORNING

Danny is standing on the balcony squinting against the day  
light and smoking. He tosses the cigarette and enters the  
empty apartment.

CUT TO:

INT APARTMENT

He walks through the apartment and out the front door. The  
GONE OUT sign is still on the door. He tears it down on his  
way out.

CUT TO:

EXT CITY STREET

Danny is walking down the street toward the intersection  
where the accident happened. He walks past the music store.  
He stops and doubles back.

CUT TO:

EXT CITY STREET - LATER

Danny exits the music store, a guitar case in hand. He walks  
up to the intersection and looks at the street. There is  
broken glass scattered and sand where a gas tank leaked. He  
looks across the street to the diner. Justice is sitting in  
a booth. Justice waves to him.

CUT TO:

INT DINER

Danny enters the diner. Justice is sitting at a table with scraps of paper and napkins with notes written all over them and a cup of coffee.

DANNY  
Mind if I sit down?

Justice nods.

DANNY  
What's with the coffee? I thought you didn't trust it here.

JUSTICE  
Early morning waitress is actually really hot. Did you know this place opened up at five in the morning?

DANNY  
No.

JUSTICE  
It's crazy shit.

The hot WAITRESS approaches the table.

WAITRESS  
Get you some more coffee?

JUSTICE  
Please.

She tops up his cup.

WAITRESS  
Anything for you this morning?

DANNY  
No thanks. I'm not very hungry.

WAITRESS  
Holler if you change your mind.

The Waitress leaves the table.

JUSTICE  
You look terrible.

DANNY

The glass out there is from me.

JUSTICE

You didn't miss the stop sign did you?

DANNY

No. Someone else did.

JUSTICE

Damn.

DANNY

Even better, Steph was in the car with me. We were on our way to her place after we got turfed from the bar.

JUSTICE

How's she doin'?

DANNY

I don't know. They wouldn't tell me much other than she'd be fine. I'm surprised you didn't come home last night.

JUSTICE

I heard you got tossed with Stephanie in tow. I didn't want to bother you. Besides, I needed some time to cool down.

DANNY

Are you cool?

JUSTICE

I am now.

DANNY

Are we cool?

JUSTICE

We are. How are you?

DANNY

I'll be fine. You want to talk about this?

JUSTICE

Do we really need to? I think we already said everything worth

JUSTICE  
saying. I'm not angry anymore but I  
meant what I said.

DANNY  
I know.

Justice holds up the envelope.

JUSTICE  
I was thinking maybe I'd just give  
this to you and call it a day.

Justice sets it on the table.

DANNY  
What is it?

JUSTICE  
Open it up.

Danny retrieves it and opens the envelope. He pulls a train  
ticket out of it.

DANNY  
What's this?

JUSTICE  
If I have to explain it then  
there's bigger problems than I  
thought.

DANNY  
Time to stop hiding, huh?

JUSTICE  
Pretty much. I got it so you  
wouldn't have to drive the shit box  
back across country.

DANNY  
Wait a minute. How'd you know where  
I was from?

JUSTICE  
I ran in to your detective. I  
thought you couldn't play anymore.

Justice nods at the guitar case.

DANNY  
I can't. Funny how we both got each  
other gifts.

JUSTICE  
Is that what I think it is?

DANNY  
Yeah. I had some money left over  
from trading in the car.

Justice starts laughing.

JUSTICE  
I spent the money I was saving for  
that guitar to buy your ticket.

Danny laughs with him. Danny pulls a wad of paper out of his  
pocket and sets it on the table.

DANNY  
I got something. I'd like you give  
it to Stephanie the next time you  
see her.

JUSTICE  
Sure thing. Anything important I  
should emphasize for her.

DANNY  
Let her know I'll be back. In time.

They sit for a moment in silence.

DANNY  
You heading home?

JUSTICE  
I think I'll finish my coffee, get  
a couple more ideas down to page.  
Soon though.

DANNY  
Alright.

Danny gets up and starts to leave.

JUSTICE  
Hey, Danny?

DANNY  
Yeah.

JUSTICE  
I'll see you around.

DANNY

Yeah.

Danny exits the diner.

CUT TO:

EXT JUDE'S HOUSE - DAY

A taxi pulls up in front of the house. Danny exits the cab and it pulls away. He looks refreshed but still scruffy around the edges.

CUT TO:

INT JUDE'S HOUSE

Danny works his way through the house. On the coffee table in the living room sits the picture he left of himself and Julia.

CUT TO:

EXT JUDE'S BACKYARD

Jude is working away at the garden, a dog keeping her company. She has her back to Danny as he walks out the patio door. The dog immediately runs to his side. He crouches down to pet it.

DANNY

Who are you?

Jude turns to Danny who is smiling. She returns the smile and immediately wells up.

JUDE

Her name is Patches.

DANNY

Hello Patches. Why did you name a white dog Patches?

Jude walks over to Danny and gives him a hug.

JUDE

I've missed you so much.

DANNY  
I've missed you.

Jude pulls away from the hug to look Danny in the eye.

JUDE  
Are you back?

DANNY  
I'm back.

She pulls him tight in a hug again.

JUDE  
Good.

She lets go.

JUDE  
You look so different.

DANNY  
It's been a rough ride.

JUDE  
You look starved. Are you hungry?  
You're hungry. Come on inside I'll  
make you something to eat.

Jude starts toward the house without a response. Danny doesn't move.

JUDE  
So what would you like?

DANNY  
I think I'd like to go visit Jules.

Jude stops.

JUDE  
I think I'd like that too. Let me  
get my shoes.

Jude heads in to the house. Danny follows her.

DANNY  
If you can get out of paying that  
private detective, I would.

FADE OUT.