

UC Riverside

UC Riverside Electronic Theses and Dissertations

Title

Cottonwood

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/0m48308z>

Author

Wood, Paul Jeffrey

Publication Date

2011

Peer reviewed|Thesis/dissertation

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
RIVERSIDE

Cottonwood

A Thesis submitted in partial satisfaction
of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Fine Arts

in

Creative Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts

by

Paul Jeffrey Wood

June 2011

Thesis Committee:

Charles Evered, Chairperson
William Rabkin
Joshua Malkin

The Thesis of Paul Jeffrey Wood is approved:

Committee Chairperson

University of California, Riverside

FADE IN:

EXT. WAL-MART -- COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA -- DAY

A Wal-Mart Supercenter. Parking lot full. Locals, either white trash, retirees, Mexican, or Native American drive in and out. The store is surrounded by high desert scrub, the perfect location for a Western. A beat-up pickup pulls into the lot, parks. CODY (38), a dusty-looking cowboy in jeans, boots, and a white hat, Skoal circle worn into his pocket, gets out of the truck.

INT. WAL-MART -- ENTRANCE -- DAY

Cody looks out of place in this brightly lit warehouse full of cheap consumer goods. He passes a GREETER sitting on a chair, tube running from his nose to an oxygen tank.

INT. WAL-MART -- CUSTOMER SERVICE DESK -- DAY

An overweight female CUSTOMER wearing pajama bottoms and slippers, one KID in her arms, one KID next to her wiping his nose on his hand, argues with a Wal-Mart CUSTOMER SERVICE REP. On the counter, a video game console.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REP

Ma'am, I told you, you are only allowed to return three items without a receipt. You've already done that.

CUSTOMER

I have no idea where you're getting your information. This is the first time I've ever returned anything in this store.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REP

It's right here, in the system. You still have the right to return this item, but the best I can give you is store credit.

CUSTOMER

Store credit?!

CUSTOMER SERVICE REP

Yes, ma'am.

CUSTOMER
How the hell am I supposed to pay my
in-surance with store credit?!

CUSTOMER SERVICE REP
Ma'am, it's company policy.

CUSTOMER
Company policy? I don't give a flying
fuck about company policy. I want
my money back!

Other CUSTOMERS turn to look at the increasingly irate
customer.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REP
Ma'am, I'd like to ask you to keep
your voice down. We have other
customers here. And children.

The customer service rep looks at the customer's kids.

CUSTOMER
I want to speak to your manager.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REP
Ma'am, Wal-Mart is a very, very large
company. The manager can't change
the policies here.

CUSTOMER
You get me a manager now. Or I will
go ape shit on you. Do you
understand?

The customer service rep picks up an intercom. When she
speaks into it, her words echo throughout the store.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REP
(into intercom)
We're gonna need a manager at the
customer service desk.
(to the customer)
If you'll just step aside. A manager
will be with you shortly.

The customer steps aside, drags the kid by her side with
her. Cody steps to the front of the line.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REP (CONT'D)
How can I help you, hon?

CODY
I'd like a job application.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REP
You gotta apply for a job online.

CODY
Like with a computer?

CUSTOMER SERVICE REP
Exactly. You go to double-you, double-you, double-you--

CODY
I ain't got a computer. I was hopin' for a piece of paper or somethin' that I could just fill out. You know, like with a pen?

The customer service rep takes a deep breath, like she's deciding whether she wants to have this conversation or not.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REP
We got a job bank over there. You can use our computers. That's all they're there for.

CODY
I don't know much about--

CUSTOMER SERVICE REP
All the instructions are on the screen. All you gotta do is follow them.

The customer service rep looks past Cody to another CUSTOMER standing in line.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REP (CONT'D)
Can I help you, hon?

INT. WAL-MART -- JOB BANK -- DAY

Cody sits at a computer terminal. He sounds out the words from the screen.

CODY
"Choose language to continue...
English...Spanish." I'll take
American, thank you very much.

Cody looks for the mouse, finds it, moves it awkwardly,
clicks. Then squints at the screen, moves his face closer
then further away.

INT. WAL-MART -- VISION CENTER -- DAY

Cody at a rack of reading glasses. He tries them on one by
one, finds a pair that works. He walks away with the glasses
in his hand. As he leaves, a CLERK in a white lab coat comes
out of a back room, sees Cody walking away, and the empty
spot in the rack where the glasses were. She picks up a
phone.

CLERK
Sir! Excuse me, sir!

INT. WAL-MART -- CUSTOMER SERVICE DESK -- DAY

A MANAGER discusses the video game return with the customer
from earlier. A SECURITY GUARD looks on.

MANAGER
It's company policy, ma'am. We have
record of your three returns right
here.

He holds out a computer print out.

CUSTOMER
I don't care what it says on your
god damned piece of paper! I am a
loyal customer and I deserve to be
treated right...You tiny dicked little
pencil pusher!

MANAGER
There's no reason to be insulting
here, ma'am. I'm offering you equal
credit for anything in the store.

CUSTOMER
You don't seem to understand.
(MORE)

CUSTOMER (CONT'D)
I already got everything I need from
here. What I need now is to pay my
in-surance!

Cody passes. The security guard gets a call on his walkie-talkie.

SECURITY GUARD
(into walkie-talkie)
Roger that.
(to Cody)
Excuse me, sir!

The security guard limps after Cody.

EXT. WAL-MART -- JOB BANK -- DAY

Cody sits at a terminal, glasses on.

CODY
"Click here to begin." This ain't
so hard.

He clicks the mouse button. The security guard reaches Cody, out of breath.

SECURITY GUARD
Hey, mister. I'm talkin' to you.

Cody looks up at the security guard. The price tag dangles from the glasses.

CODY
This ain't a good time right now.
I'm tryin' to fill out a job
application.

SECURITY GUARD
You left the store over there without
paying for those glasses you're
wearing.

CODY
That over there's Wal-Mart, ain't
it? And this over here's Wal-Mart.
I ain't left the store yet.

SECURITY GUARD

Technically that over there is a separate shop licensed to Wal-Mart. When you step off the blue carpet, you left the store?

CODY

The fuck? Are you accusing me of stealing?

SECURITY GUARD

I ain't accusing you of nothing. But the people in the shop are. So you can walk with me to the counter over there, pay six-ninety-five and forget about this. Or I can call officers Hughes and Ricks over here, they'll take you to the county hotel for the night, and you'll spend the next six months tied up in court dates and legal costs. Your choice.

Cody looks toward the vision center. At the customer service desk, OFFICERS HUGHES and RICKS put handcuffs on the customer returning the video game console.

INT. WAL-MART -- VISION CENTER -- DAY

At the cash register, Cody turns his pockets inside out. He puts crumpled bills and change on the counter. When he's done, the clerk picks out \$6.95 and rings up the sale.

CLERK

Thank you for choosing the Wal-Mart Vision Center today. Here's your receipt.

INT. WAL-MART -- JOB BANK -- DAY

Cody at a computer terminal. He adjusts his glasses, clicks the mouse to begin the job application.

CODY

"First Name."
(typing)
Cody.

He presses the backspace button several times.

CODY (CONT'D)
Coderick. "Last Name."
(typing)
Williams. "Educational Background."
(clicks)
"Some high school." "Last Employer."
(types)
AM/PM. "Explain any breaks in
employment of six months or more."
(types)
Economy. "Are you a veteran of the
armed forces."
(clicks)
Yes. "Have you ever been convicted
of a felony."
(clicks)
Yes. "If 'yes,' please explain..."

EXT. WAL-MART -- PARKING LOT -- DAY

Cody walks down the middle of an aisle. A DRIVER honks at him.

CODY
Keep your shirt on, lady.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Cody turns his key in the ignition. Nothing happens.

CODY
The fuck.

EXT. WAL-MART -- PARKING LOT -- DAY

A bus-sized RV pulls into the space next to Cody's pickup. The passenger door opens. A white-haired RETIRED WOMAN steps out.

CODY
Excuse me, ma'am. I was wondering
if I could trouble you and your
husband for a jump start?

EXT. COTTONWOOD ARIZONA -- DAY

Cody's pickup cruises down a main drag lined with check cashing shops, auto title loans, thrift shops, fast food

restaurants, and gas stations. Cars sit in parking lots with prices written on the windows. On the roadside, signs for yard sales, car washes, and "Pit bull pups 4 sale."

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Cody sings along to country music playing on a battery operated boom box in the passenger seat. There's a gaping hole in his dash where a radio used to be.

EXT. CIRCLE-K -- DAY

Gas station and convenience mart on a streetcorner. Windows covered in posters advertising cheap beer, the parking lot in oil stains. Cody's pickup pulls in, parks. Cody steps out, leaves the engine running.

INT. CIRCLE-K -- DAY

A cashier, MIKEY (27), clearly Native American, with long, black hair, rings out a CUSTOMER.

MIKEY

Have a nice day.

Cody, rushing in, nearly collides with the customer at the door.

CODY

(to the customer)

Well, excuse you.

(to Mikey)

Hey, Chief. What's up?

Cody heads straight for the coolers.

MIKEY

Same shit, different day. What's up with you?

CODY

Oh, you know. Tryin' to hustle me some work. Filled out an application at Wal-Mart. Gonna get a me job with them old people and cripples.

MIKEY

Whatever it takes.

CODY

Damn straight. Whatever it takes.

Cody puts two tall-boy cans of Budweiser and Clamato on the counter. Mikey rings him up.

CODY (CONT'D)

How's the lawsuit?

MIKEY

On hold.

CODY

What for?

MIKEY

The lawyer's uncomfortable taking cash payments. That's what he said, at least.

CODY

The fuck? What's wrong with people? Even cash money ain't good enough no more. You gotta pay with a check? That just don't make sense.

MIKEY

He said the case didn't have much of a chance anyway.

CODY

Even though you're Injun? And it's an Injun casino?

MIKEY

It's like the Mafia. You gotta be from the right tribe to get your cut.

CODY

All they do is sit out on the rez, wait for their checks in the mail and cash 'em at the casino.

MIKEY

I know, don't get me started--

CODY

Shit, if they'd come into town once in a while, maybe spend a few bucks, this place wouldn't be such a shit hole.

MIKEY

At least some of them are good customers.

Cody knocks on the counter.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

You sure?

CODY

To be honest, it's been a fuck of a day.

MIKEY

Your old lady was in here earlier.

CODY

Lynette?

Mikey nods.

CODY (CONT'D)

Give it to me anyway.

Mikey reaches under the counter, slips Cody a small packet wrapped up in paper. Cody takes it.

CODY (CONT'D)

You know I'm good for it. Just as soon as I get a job.

MIKEY

If you're looking for a job, why don't you come to work for me? I could use another runner, and with you and Lynette both using--

CODY

Lynette ain't usin', and neither am I. It's just been a tough day.

MIKEY

I'm just sayin'. I could keep you both going for free. You could maybe put away a little cash on the side...

CODY

The fuck, Mikey? You know I got two strikes against me.

MIKEY

Just trying to help out a friend.

CODY

How's runnin' for you supposed to help me out? That ain't gonna get me nowhere. If you really want to help me, why don't you get me a job here?

MIKEY

'Cause you'd have to pass a drug test.

Cody snatches up his beers.

CODY

Now I know why you ain't gettin' your cut from the casino.

MIKEY

Why's that?

CODY

Cause you're a fucker. I wouldn't take you in my tribe, either.

Cody walks out.

MIKEY

Have a nice day!

EXT. CIRCLE-K -- DAY

Cody gets in his pickup, backs out of the parking space. He turns onto a side street, tires squealing as he heads out of town.

EXT. HORSE RANCH -- DAY

A sprawling ranch house on the road out of town. Willow trees. Whitewashed fences. A pond. Horses in paddocks. Cody's pickup stops on the side of the road. The engine idles.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Cody taps paper packet on his steering wheel. Crystal meth spills out. He snorts some, takes a slug of his Bud and Clamato. He listens to country music, watches the horses swish their tails and twitch as the sun goes down.

EXT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- DAY

Within view of the horse ranch house, a single-wide trailer home, it's roof patched over in tarpaper and plywood. In the front yard, junk, weeds, and an economy car with a cracked windshield. Cody's pickup pulls in, kicks up dust.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Cody kills the engine, turns off the music. He takes a deep breath. Whatever he's about to walk into is going to take a lot of strength. He wipes the meth residue from the steering wheel.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- DAY

A cluttered trailer home. Dark. Windows drawn. In the living room, a worn couch, cheap knick-knacks on shelves, a TV. Kitchen and dining room attached. Junk mail on the dining table. Cody enters.

CODY

Lynette?

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- BEDROOM -- DAY

Lynette (42), a fading beauty, but still out of Cody's league, lies asleep on the bed, twisted in the sheets. A TV drones on in the background.

CODY

Lynette?!

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- DAY

Lynette shuffles out of the bedroom, a blanket wrapped around her shoulders. She picks up a pack of cigarettes from the dining room table, lights one.

LYNETTE

How'd the job search go, honey?

CODY

Fine.

He takes a cigarette from her pack, lights it. Plops down on the couch, turns on the TV, cracks his second beer.

LYNETTE

Where'd you go?

CODY

Wal-Mart.

LYNETTE

Did you fill out a job application?

Lynette shuffles to the kitchen, opens a nearly empty fridge, takes out baloney, American cheese, white bread and mustard, fixes a sandwich.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)

Did you hear me, Cody? I said, "Did you fill out an application?"

CODY

I heard you. Of course I did.

LYNETTE

And?

CODY

And what?

LYNETTE

Did you talk to a manager or someone?

CODY

There wasn't no one to talk to. You do it all on a computer now.

Lynette drops the sandwich on a coffee table, near Cody's sock feet.

LYNETTE
The rent's due in a couple of days.

Cody stares at the TV.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)
Did you hear me? I said--

CODY
I know what you said. You think I don't know when the rent's due?

LYNETTE
Do you want to talk?

CODY
Ain't nothin' to talk about.

Lynette stares at Cody, waits for him to look at her, which he doesn't. She shuffles back toward the bedroom. Cody turns around.

CODY (CONT'D)
I stopped by to talk to Mikey today.

Lynette stops in her tracks. Cody stands, approaches her.

LYNETTE
Oh, really? How's his case goin'?

CODY
I don't know. Why don't you tell me?

LYNETTE
How should I know?

CODY
You need to lay off that shit, Lynette. The doctor said--

LYNETTE
I don't care what the doctor said.

CODY

How're we supposed to pay the rent
when you're out spendin' our money
on credit?

LYNETTE

I just needed a break. All right?
Is that a crime?

CODY

A break from what?

LYNETTE

From this. Look around you, Cody.
This ain't what I signed on for.

CODY

We married for richer or for poorer.

LYNETTE

I didn't know it was goin' to get
this bad.

CODY

We need to work together.

Lynette reaches for the doorknob to the bedroom. Cody grabs
her wrist. Lynette tries to pry his fingers from her wrist.
Cody holds on tighter.

LYNETTE

Ow! You're hurting me, Cody. Let
go!

They struggle. She can't get out of his grasp. She pounds
on his chest with her free hand, slaps his face. He balls a
fist.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)

I never took you for that kind, Cody.
But I guess I was wrong.

Cody opens his hand, drops it to his side.

CODY

What kind?

LYNETTE
The kind of man that hangs onto a
woman by force.

CODY
I ain't that kind.

LYNETTE
You sure? 'Cause you're actin' like
it right now.

Cody has no response.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)
Be careful about crossin' lines that
can't be crossed back.

She walks into the bedroom, shuts the door, locks it from
the inside.

CODY
I ain't that kind, Lynette.

No response from Lynette. Cody bangs on the door.

CODY (CONT'D)
You hear me, Lynette? I said I ain't
that kind!

EXT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

Cody carries a sleeping bag in one hand, eats the sandwich
with the other. He walks down rickety wooden steps from the
front door, mutters to himself.

CODY
God-damn motherfuckin' son-of-a-bitch.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Lynette in bed. She snorts a tiny bit of crystal meth, like
she's trying not to but can't help herself. From outside,
the sound of something being torn apart. She turns up the
volume on the TV.

EXT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

The stairs to the front door are gone. Cody uses the wood from the stairs to build a fire. He hacks kindling with a hatchet. When he tries to light the fire, it won't catch.

CODY
God-damn motherfuckin'...

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Lynette in bed. The sound of the front door opening until it hits the wall. Heavy footsteps. Lynette sinks deeper under the covers.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

Cody takes collection notices and junk mail from the dining room table.

EXT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

Cody falls out the front door, twisting his ankle on the ground. He finds a washbasin, drags it to the front door, and turns it upside down to take the place of the steps. At the fire pit, he wads up the mail, pushes it onto the cracks of the wood, and sets it on fire.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Lynette sleeps, bathed in the light of the TV.

EXT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

Cody sleeps, bathed in moonlight. Overhead, a helicopter floats through the night sky. Next to Cody, the fire dies out.

EXT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- DAY

The sun is up. Cody wakes. He stands, creaky, like a man twice his age. He brushes the dust off his clothes.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- DAY

Cody tries the door to the bedroom. Still locked.

CODY
Lynette? I'm gonna go downtown and
get me a job today. You hear me?
Everything's gonna be like we said
it was. Don't you worry.

EXT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- DAY

Cody jumps starts his truck from the economy car battery.

EXT. DOLLAR GENERAL STORE -- DAY

Cody pulls into the parking lot of a dollar store. He leaves the engine running.

INT. DOLLAR GENERAL STORE -- DAY

Two female CASHIERS talk amongst themselves as Cody enters, don't look up to greet him. In a toy aisle, Cody finds a plastic sheriff's badge, puts it down his pants. As he walks out the store, he tips his hat and nods at the cashiers.

CODY
Ladies.

EXT. VACANT LOT -- DAY

A line of DAY LABORERS. A large diesel pickup rolls to a stop in front of them. A laborer approaches the cab, speaks with the DRIVER. The laborer turns to signal the group.

LABORER
Tres manos!

Three laborers climb into the bed of the pickup. Across the street, Cody's pickup rolls to a stop.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Cody unwraps the sheriff's badge, puts it in his wallet. He practices flipping open his wallet like a cop. He bangs on the glove box, and it falls open. He takes out a pearl-handled revolver, removes the bullets.

EXT. VACANT LOT -- DAY

Cody walks quickly toward the lineup. He flips open his wallet, displaying the badge.

CODY
Federales! Everybody scram!

Not one of the laborers moves. They just look at Cody like he's crazy.

CODY (CONT'D)
You heard me! I said scram! Arriba
arriba! Go on! Git! Go!

Still no reaction. Cody pulls out his gun.

CODY (CONT'D)
Get the fuck out of here!

The laborers scatter quickly. Cody stands proudly on the side of the road, waiting for a pickup to roll in. In the parking lot of a nearby Denny's, the laborers slowly reassemble. A pickup rolls slowly past Cody, stops in front of the laborers.

CODY (CONT'D)
I'll be god-damned...

EXT. PICKUP -- DAY

A laborer speaks with the DRIVER.

LABORER
Cuantos quiere?

DRIVER
Seen-co.

LABORER
Cinco manos!

Cody bumps the laborer aside, speaks to the driver.

CODY
You got some work to be done?

DRIVER
Yeah. What's it to you?

CODY
I'm looking for some employment.

DIRECTOR
You're in the wrong place.

CODY
I'll do anything you need. And I
got construction skills.

DIRECTOR
You speak Mexican?

CODY
No.

DIRECTOR
Then I got no use for you.

Five laborers are in the back of the truck. The driver
reaches for his shifter.

CODY
Hold on just a god-damned second.
You're gonna hire these illegals
over a red-blooded American looking
for an honest day's work?

DIRECTOR
My whole crew's Mexican. You gotta
be able to talk with them. Sorry,
but that's just the way it is.

The driver puts his truck in 'drive.' Cody pulls out his
pistol, cocks it, aims it at the driver.

CODY
I ain't here to take no for an answer.

The driver pulls a Magnum .45 from his glove box, points it
at Cody.

DIRECTOR
And I ain't here to take shit from
the likes of you.

Cody lets the hammer down on his pistol. The driver pulls
away from the curb, running over Cody's foot. Cody hops on
his good foot, clutches his bad one.

CODY
God-damn it!

EXT. VACANT LOT -- DAY

Cody's got the boot and sock off his injured foot. It's black and blue. In the Denny's lot, only a couple laborers remain. While Cody inspects his foot, a black Chrysler 300 with Nevada plates rolls to a stop in front of him. A tinted passenger-side window rolls down. Cody stands.

CODY
You lookin' to get some work done?

The driver of the car, Brandle (44), well-dressed in a slick black suit and tie, handsome, grins at Cody.

BRANDLE
Yeah. I'm lookin' to get some work done--on my nuts.

CODY
Get the fuck out of here.

BRANDLE
How much you charge?

Brandle takes a rubber band off a large wad of cash. He peels off bills.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)
Fifty bucks? A hundred?

CODY
I don't need this shit.

BRANDLE
They're plenty of whose have blown me for half the price, but I'm willing to pay a little more for you. 'Cause I kind of like you.

CODY
Fuck off.

Cody steps back from the car. At the Denny's, a pickup drives off with the last of the day laborers. Cody shakes his head.

BRANDLE

I'll tell you what, cutie pie. I been on the road all day long and I'm starvin'. I'm gonna pull into that Denny's over there, order me an omelet. That should give you plenty of time to think things over.

He tosses a hundred dollar bill at Cody.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)

The money's yours. Should be worth a hundred bucks to have breakfast with a lonely guy like me. If you want to, there's more where that came from. If you don't, you can still keep the money. No strings attached.

The passenger window slides up. The Chrysler pulls away, into the Denny's lot, parks. Brandle gets out, rubs his stomach in an "I'm hungry" motion, walks into the Denny's. Cody looks at the hundred dollar bill in his hand.

INT. DENNY'S -- DAY

Brandle sits in a booth next to a window, flips through a pocket notebook. Outside the window, in the vacant lot, Cody paces, wipes his brow with a bandanna. The day laborers are gone from the parking lot. Inside the restaurant, an attractive young WAITRESS approaches with a pot of coffee in her hand.

WAITRESS

Still waitin' for me to start that order?

BRANDLE

Yeah.

WAITRESS

Your friend is pretty late. You sure he's gonna show up?

BRANDLE

He'll be here any minute, don't worry. Keep the coffee warm for him, would you?

WAITRESS

Sure thing.

She leans over to refill Brandle's cup, giving him a look inside her blouse. Brandle smiles at her. She smiles back.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

I'll just pour this out and refill it.

BRANDLE

That's very kind of you, sweetheart.

WAITRESS

I don't mind 'sweetheart,' but you can call me Kathy if you like.

The waitress walks away. Brandle looks out the window. Outside the restaurant, Cody walks toward the entrance.

BRANDLE

Kathy?

The waitress turns.

WAITRESS

Yes?

BRANDLE

I think we're about ready for that order.

WAITRESS

You got it--

BRANDLE

Brandle.

WAITRESS

Brandle.

Cody enters the restaurant, walks up to Brandle's booth, remains standing.

CODY

The fuck are you doin' here?

BRANDLE
I'm on my way to Atlantic City.

CODY
Where from?

BRANDLE
Vegas.

CODY
You in trouble?

BRANDLE
No.

CODY
How'd you know where I was?

BRANDLE
Dumb luck, I guess. I'm as surprised
as you are.

Cody isn't buying it. Brandle takes an old letter out of
his coat pocket.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)
Your last and only letter to me while
I was in the can. I looked up the
return address. You know all you
have to do is put it into the GPS in
the car now? Don't even have to
read a map.

Cody stares Brandle down.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)
C'mon, Cody. Can't one brother visit
another when he's passing through
town?

Brandle stands, gives Cody a hug. Cody remains stiff.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)
Have a seat. Let's eat something
together.

Brandle sits. Cody sits down, too--but before he can settle
in, Brandle speaks.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)
Don't worry. I don't have any hard
feelings.

The waitress arrives with a cup of coffee in one hand, two
plates of food in the other.

WAITRESS
Here you boys are. A Denver omelet
for you.
(she puts one plate
in front of Brandle)
And heuvos rancheros for you.

Cody stares at the plate in front of him.

BRANDLE
I ordered for you. Don't take it so
hard. It's just a little joke.

Brandle starts eating.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)
Dig in. Before your food gets cold.

INT. DENNY'S -- LATER

The check is on the table. Cody eats his last bite of food,
wipes his mouth with a napkin. Brandle studies him.

CODY
Well, we ate together.

BRANDLE
That we did. I wish you could still
smoke in restaurants. I sure could
go for a cigarette.

CODY
I gotta go now--

Cody stands.

BRANDLE
Not so fast.

CODY
You wanted to eat together. We ate.

Brandle puts a large bill in the check holder, waves it for the waitress, who comes right over, takes the bill.

BRANDLE

I'm not ready to leave just yet. I wanted to spend some time together. Get reacquainted.

CODY

How long?

BRANDLE

Couple of days.

CODY

I got a lot of shit to do.

BRANDLE

I won't get in your way. I promise.

CODY

You ain't thinkin' of--

BRANDLE

I want to spend as much time with you as possible. Eight years is a long time--

CODY

You can't stay at my place.

BRANDLE

Give me one good reason why not.

CODY

I ain't got enough space.

BRANDLE

I don't take up much space. And besides, your couch looked pretty comfortable.

CODY

How do you know what my couch looks like?

BRANDLE
I talked to your old lady. She said
it was all right.

CODY
You talked to Lynette?

BRANDLE
I'm trying here. I really am. Just
meet me in the middle. I don't want
to say you owe me exactly, but...

The waitress returns with the change. The bill has the
waitresses phone number written on it. Brandle takes it,
leaves the money.

WAITRESS
Yeah, Cody. Just say 'yes.' It
always works for me.

EXT. STREET -- DAY

Brandle's Chrysler parked next to Cody's truck. Cody
disconnects jumper cables that connect the two cars. Brandle
smokes, wads up the lunch bill, throws it away.

CODY
I'll take you the back way. It's
faster than whatever your computer
tells you.

BRANDLE
I'd rather take the long way and
meet you there.

Brandle pulls out his notebook, looks in it.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)
Don't worry. I just gotta pick up a
couple of things on the way.

EXT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- DAY

Cody's pickup kicks up dust as it pulls into the driveway.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- DAY

The windows are open. The place is tidy. On the table, a bouquet of arranged flowers in a vase. Lynette dusts around the knick-knacks on the shelves. She's dressed for the day. Around her neck, a thin gold chain with a locket. Cody bursts in the door.

CODY

Lynette?!

LYNETTE

You don't gotta shout. I'm standing right here.

Cody makes a bee-line for the bedroom.

CODY

My brother's comin' over,--

LYNETTE

I know--

CODY

He's wants to stay with us for a couple of days, and--

Cody notices the flowers on the table.

CODY (CONT'D)

What the hell are these?

LYNETTE

Flowers.

CODY

I can see they're flowers. Who the hell are they from?

LYNETTE

Your brother. Brandle.

Cody picks up the vase of flowers, moves toward the kitchen.

CODY

I don't want them around here.

LYNETTE
What's wrong with the flowers?

CODY
I don't want nothin' from him around
here, got it?

Lynette takes the flowers from him.

LYNETTE
Cody, it's only polite to bring the
lady of the house something when
you're a guest. Look in the kitchen.
He brought you something, too.

Cody goes into the kitchen, picks up a bottle of whiskey.

CODY
Now what the hell am I supposed to
do with this?

LYNETTE
You drink it.

Cody puts the whiskey in the trash. Lynette pulls it out.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)
What are you bein' so silly about?
It's just your brother.

CODY
There's a lot about Brandle and me
you don't know about.

LYNETTE
I'm right here if you want to tell
me. If you ever wanted to talk--

CODY
The fuck?

He touches the locket on Lynette's neck. She swats his hand
away.

CODY (CONT'D)
Is that from Brandle, too?

LYNETTE
Yes. It is.

CODY
Take it off.

LYNETTE
No. It was a gift.

CODY
I said--

Lynette opens the locket. She shows one side.

LYNETTE
It's a picture of you.
She shows the other.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)
And him.
Both pictures are from their childhood.

CODY
He's got two days here, you hear me?
That's it. On the third day--

LYNETTE
You don't have to shout--

CODY
On the third day, he's out. You
understand?

LYNETTE
But I ain't never met a member of
your family before--

CODY
And another thing: no arguing. You
hear me? No fuckin' arguments while
he's here.

LYNETTE
Cody, I'm not the one--

The front door opens. Brandle enters carrying two bags of groceries.

BRANDLE
Am I interrupting something?

LYNETTE
No, no. I was just showing Cody the stuff you brought for us.

BRANDLE
You see what I brought you, bro?
That's real Scotch whisky. The finest they make.

LYNETTE
I'll take those from you.

Lynette unpacks the groceries.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)
Lookie here, Cody. Brandle brought us steaks!

Cody is silent.

BRANDLE
What's with him?

LYNETTE
I don't never know. He just gets like this sometimes. Aren't you going to say 'thank you' to your brother, Cody?

CODY
Thank you.

LYNETTE
What do you want to do now, Brother Brandle? I'd show you around the place, but we done did that already.

BRANDLE
I thought I could take you two lovebirds out tonight.

LYNETTE

That sounds wonderful. Where do you want to go? We got a Sizzler right down the street.

BRANDLE

I saw a billboard for a casino on my way into town. Is that anywhere near here?

LYNETTE

It's the next exit on the highway. But isn't that kind of a busman's holiday for you, seein' as how you work in casinos and all?

BRANDLE

Actually, it makes me feel right at home..

CODY

How do you know Brandle works in a casino?

LYNETTE

We had a few minutes to chat before Brother Brandle went out lookin' for you. Where did he find you, anyway?

CODY

Never mind. I don't want to go to no casino. And I need to take a shower.

BRANDLE

Go ahead, take your shower. We'll wait. I'm sure Lynette and I can find something to talk about.

EXT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- DAY

Lynette in the passenger seat of the Chrysler. Brandle watches her touch the interior.

LYNETTE

Are these real leather seats?

BRANDLE
Sure are.

LYNETTE
And is that one of those GPS thingies?

BRANDLE
Sure is.

LYNETTE
This is one nice ride.

BRANDLE
I'm sure you've been in a lot of nice cars.

LYNETTE
I been in a couple in my day. Did you get one of those low-interest loans?

BRANDLE
I paid cash.

Cody limps out of the trailer.

LYNETTE
You hear that, Cody? Brandle paid cash for his car.

Cody walks toward his truck.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)
Where you goin', Cody?

CODY
I'm goin' to my truck. Where you think I'm goin'?

BRANDLE
I'll drive, bro.

CODY
That's all right.

Cody pulls jumper cables out of the cab.

BRANDLE
Who's gonna give you a jump?

CODY
I got it right here.

LYNETTE
Cody, get in this car. I don't want
to be seen in the casino in that
piece of junk. I wanna go in style.

CODY
This ain't no piece of junk. She's
a perfectly good four-wheel-drive
vehicle.

LYNETTE
There ain't enough space in there
for the three of us.

CODY
Sure there is.

Cody pops the hood on the economy car.

BRANDLE
Don't be so stubborn, bro. The lady's
asking you to ride in my car. Oblige
her.

LYNETTE
Yeah, Cody. Oblige the lady. Or
she might grow unhappy with you.

INT. CHRYSLER -- DAY

Brandle drives. Lynette adjusts the radio. Cody sits in
the back seat.

LYNETTE
How many stations you got on here,
anyway?

BRANDLE
I don't know. Couple hundred.

LYNETTE
How'd you get so many?

BRANDLE
It's hooked up to a satellite system.
They got a station for just about
anything. You name it, they got it.

LYNETTE
Radio from a satellite?

BRANDLE
You bet. Hey, Cody, how you doing
back there?

CODY
Fine, just fine.

BRANDLE
Anything you want to hear?

CODY
Country'd be fine.

BRANDLE
What kind of country you want?
There's honky tonk, modern, outlaw.

CODY
Just regular ol' country is fine.

EXT. TRAFFIC INTERSECTION -- DAY

The Chrysler pulls up to a red light at an intersection near
a highway onramp. At the front of the line in the opposite
direction is a silver Chrysler 300.

INT. CHRYSLER -- DAY

Brandle stares straight ahead. Lynette has her window rolled
down, puts a hand out.

BRANDLE
She's got over three hundred horses.

Through the windshield, the light turns green.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)
Check this out.

The Chrysler accelerates. Lynette's hair blows in the breeze. Cody's head snaps back, as Brandle steers onto the highway.

EXT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- DAY

The local Indian casino at dusk. Stone facade with faux beams, made to look like a Native American dwelling decorated in flashing lights. Brandle's Chrysler drives through a glimmering archway at the bottom of a hill, takes the single road to the casino entrance.

EXT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- ENTRANCE -- DAY

Brandle, Cody, and Lynette get out of the car. Brandle flips the keys to a valet. Lynette takes Brandle's arm.

LYNETTE

I haven't been here since I don't know how long. This is going to be a great night, boys. I can just feel it. Cody, why didn't you tell me your brother was such a stud?

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- DAY

The place is a bee-hive of activity. Gamblers everywhere. Young, old, white, Mexican, Native American. Long lines in front of the cashiers' windows. Brandle, Cody, and Lynette enter.

BRANDLE

What do you say we start of with a drink?

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- BAR -- DAY

They walk from the bar to a table. Brandle sits with his back to the wall. He has a full view of the casino floor.

LYNETTE

Do you know any good stories you could tell me about Cody, Brother Brandle?

BRANDLE

What would you like to know?

LYNETTE

Something from his childhood.
Something embarrassing, if possible.
You know any embarrassing stories
about Cody?

BRANDLE

I might have a couple.

CODY

I don't want to hear no embarrassing
stories about myself.

LYNETTE

Close your ears then.

Brandle checks Cody.

BRANDLE

Tell you what, honey. I got enough
stories about Cody to fill a couple
of days. But I'd like to tell them
later, if you don't mind. I haven't
seen my little brother in quite some
time, and I'd like to get
reacquainted.

Brandle pulls a large bill from his roll and gives it to
Lynette.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)

You think you could get lost for a
while and find some place to spend
this?

LYNETTE

I think this could hold me over for
a few minutes.

She leaves. A WAITER puts drinks on the table, a beer and
tomato juice for Cody, Scotch whisky for Brandle. Cody takes
a slug of his beer before Brandle can raise his glass.

BRANDLE

Cheers.

Cody wipes beer from his upper lip.

CODY
 Cheers.
 They drink. Silence.

BRANDLE
 So?

CODY
 So what?

BRANDLE
 What you been up to since we last
 saw each other?

CODY
 Stuff.

BRANDLE
 Stuff? What kind of stuff?

CODY
 Different stuff.

BRANDLE
 You been working?

CODY
 Off and on.

BRANDLE
 When'd you get married?

CODY
 'Bout three years ago. Does any of
 this really matter?

BRANDLE
 I'm trying to get caught up. Where'd
 you two meet?

CODY
 Why do you want to know so much about
 me and Lynette?

BRANDLE
 Why are you making this so difficult?
 (MORE)

BRANDLE (CONT'D)

It's not like I'm asking about your sex life. I'm just wondering how you met.

CODY

In a hospital. She was a patient. I was working there.

BRANDLE

What was the matter with her?

CODY

Car accident.

BRANDLE

And you?

CODY

I was a janitor.

BRANDLE

Must have been true love.

CODY

Why's that?

BRANDLE

A beauty like that falls in love with a janitor.

CODY

What about you?

BRANDLE

After I got out of the can?

Cody swallows a slug of beer, hard.

CODY

Yeah.

BRANDLE

I moved to Vegas.

CODY

What'd you do there?

BRANDLE
Became a professional gambler.

CODY
Bullshit.

BRANDLE
What? You don't believe me?

CODY
I know you like your money a little
faster.

BRANDLE
Let's just say I was in operations.

CODY
And?

BRANDLE
Cellmate set me up after I got out.
I learned the ropes.

CODY
Is he the the guy you burned?

BRANDLE
I didn't burn anyone. Just outgrew
the position. There wasn't enough
room for the two of us in town, so
I'm moving on.

Cody eyes Brandle skeptically.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)
Swear to god.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- SLOT MACHINES -- DAY

Lynette plays five cent slots within view of Brandle and
Cody. The machine has a progressive jackpot of about fifteen-
hundred dollars. Lynette's tipsy. A MANAGER approaches
her. He wears a name tag with his name and hometown.

MANAGER
How are you doin' tonight?

LYNETTE
I'm havin' a fine time.

MANAGER
Anything I can get for you?

LYNETTE
Nothin' I can think of at the moment.

The manager hesitates.

MANAGER
If you need anything, ma'am, my name's
Jay.

The manager holds out his name tag. Lynette squints at it.

LYNETTE
I see. It also says you're from Las
Cruces. Is that true, Jay?

MANAGER
Sure is.

LYNETTE
How far away from here is Las Cruces?

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- POKER ROOM -- DAY

A wealthy RANCHER (65), sport coat, western shirt, and cowboy hat, tosses chips into the pot at a poker table. He looks toward the slots, makes eye contact with Lynette. When she sees him, she quickly looks away.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- SLOT MACHINES -- DAY

Lynette takes a sip of her drink, turns her attention back to the slot machine. The manager leans on the slot machine, close to Lynette.

MANAGER
You sure there's nothin' I can get
you?

Lynette looks straight at the slot machine.

LYNETTE
Thank you, Jay. I'll let you know
if I need you.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- BAR -- DAY

Brandle and Cody both look off in Lynette's direction.

BRANDLE
She's trouble, Cody.

CODY
How would you know?

BRANDLE
I've known enough women to know
trouble when I see it.

CODY
You don't know nothin'.

BRANDLE
I know you got the puppy-dog look in
your eye that you always had--right
before some bitch broke your heart.

CODY
You don't know what we got between
us.

BRANDLE
I'm just trying to look out for you,
bro, like I've been doing most of my
life.

CODY
In case you haven't noticed, I'm
grown up now.

BRANDLE
She'll be riding the first fat wallet
she can get hold of right out of
town.

Cody tosses his drink in Brandle's face. Stands and clenches
his fists. Brandle takes it sitting down, doesn't flinch.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, bro. Maybe I went a little
too far, but I'm just trying to look
out for you.

Brandle dries himself with a napkin, licks his lips.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)
This beer and tomato juice tastes
like shit.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- SLOT MACHINES -- DAY

Lynette watches the columns on the slot screen roll. They
settle with four-of-a-kind across the middle. A jackpot
alarm sounds. The manager returns.

LYNETTE
I won! I won!

Lynette jumps up and down, hugs the manager.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)
Hey, boys! Look at me! I won!

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- BAR -- DAY

Brandle and Cody turn to face Lynette.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- SLOT MACHINES -- DAY

Lynette receives her payout from the manager.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- BAR -- DAY

Brandle gives Cody an I-told-you-so look. Lynette runs on
her tiptoes to the brothers, kisses Brandle on the lips,
then Cody.

LYNETTE
I can't believe it! Fifteen hundred
bucks! Ima go play me some dollar
slots!

She walks away.

BRANDLE
Come on, bro. Let's go have a little
fun.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- BLACKJACK TABLE -- DAY

Brandle antes up at a blackjack table. The DEALER, female, young, and attractive, smiles at him. He smiles back.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- SLOT MACHINES -- DAY

Lynette plays dollar slots.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- VIDEO POKER MACHINES -- DAY

Cody presses the buttons on the video poker machines, but watches Lynette and Brandle. Behind him, in the casino restaurant, two OFF-DUTY POLICE OFFICERS eat dinner, study the crowd.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- CASHIER'S WINDOW -- DAY

A small group of CASINO EMPLOYEES assembles in front of a door. Out the door, another employee pushes a cash cart.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- BLACKJACK TABLE -- DAY

The cash cart reaches Brandle's table. Gaming halts. The dealer steps back from the table.

BRANDLE
How much you think you pull down in
a night?

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

Brandle, Cody, and Lynette enter. Lynette stumbles as she walks in.

LYNETTE
I can't believe I was up fifteen
hundred dollars!

BRANDLE
Easy come, easy go.

LYNETTE
You boys want something to eat?

BRANDLE
I'm bushed.

LYNETTE
Good. 'Cause I'm not in the mood to
make anything. I'm so tired.

CODY
Here's a blanket and a pillow.

Cody tosses bedding on the couch.

BRANDLE
Thanks, bro.

LYNETTE
Good night, Brother Brandle.

BRANDLE
Good night, darlin'. Sleep well.

LYNETTE
You, too.

Cody and Lynette turn to walk to the bedroom.

BRANDLE
Good night, bro.

CODY
Yeah. Good night.

BRANDLE
Don't forget what we talked about.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- BEDROOM -- DAY

Lynette walks straight toward a small makeup table. Cody
looks around, as if he's refamiliarizing himself with the
place. Lynette brushes her hair.

LYNETTE
What did you and Brandle talk about
at the casino?

CODY
Nothin'.

LYNETTE

You had to have talked about something. What would he have mentioned it for?

CODY

We talked about old times.

LYNETTE

What kind of old times?

CODY

Listen, Lynette. I don't like the way you're actin' with Brandle.

LYNETTE

You wanted me to make nice. I'm makin' nice.

CODY

You're doin' a little more than just making nice.

LYNETTE

Cody? Are you jealous? He's family. You don't think--

CODY

I just know what I see.

LYNETTE

He's just gonna be here for a couple of days.

CODY

You don't know Brandle like I know him. He don't do nothin' without a purpose.

LYNETTE

His purpose bein' her ain't to see you?

CODY

I don't know. So just knock it off with him, would you?

Cody touches her shoulders. She closes her eyes. He kisses her neck. She rolls her head from side to side, lets out a sigh. He caresses her near her breasts. She puts a hand on his. He takes his hand away. She reaches for him. He unbuttons his shirt. She opens her eyes.

LYNETTE

What are you doin'?

CODY

What does it look like I'm doin'?
I'm gettin' undressed.

LYNETTE

With what intentions?

CODY

Intentions?

Cody continues undressing.

LYNETTE

You don't think I'm just gonna hop
in the sack with you, do you?

CODY

Well...

LYNETTE

No no no no no. You're gonna have
to do a lot better than that if you
want to sleep with me, cowboy.

CODY

Lynette, it's been two weeks. We
are husband and wife, you know.

LYNETTE

We might be wearin' rings and all,
but this ain't been a marriage in
quite some time.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

Brandle on the couch. Staring at the ceiling.

CODY (O.S.)

What do you want me to do?

LYNETTE (O.S.)
Try bein' a little nicer. Like your
brother.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Cody stands half-dressed in front of Lynette.

CODY
My brother flips you a hundred dollar
bill and suddenly he's the greatest
guy you ever met?

LYNETTE
You were so sweet to me when we got
together. Used to bring me flowers
in the hospital. What happened to
that Cody? This person in front of
me, I don't know him.

CODY
Lynette, I'm bustin' my ass tryin'
to take care of you.

LYNETTE
Maybe I don't want you to take care
of me.

CODY
Lynette, you need to see a doctor.

LYNETTE
Maybe I don't want to see a doctor.
Have you ever thought about that?

Cody doesn't have an answer.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)
Maybe I just want to live a little.
I been tryin' to do that for some
time now with you, but I feel like I
ain't gettin' nowhere.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

Cody, shirt unbuttoned, fly open, boots in hand, walks past
Brandle.

EXT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

Cody beds down for the night with his sleeping bag.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- DAY

Brandle sits at the dining room table, cup of coffee in front of him. He writes something in his notebook. Lynette comes out of the bedroom wearing nothing but a short bathrobe.

BRANDLE

There's coffee in the pot if you want some.

LYNETTE

Oh, you scared me.

BRANDLE

Sorry. Hope you don't mind me pokin' around your kitchen.

Lynette pours herself a cup of coffee.

LYNETTE

Did you sleep alright?

BRANDLE

I always sleep fine.

Lynette rubs her neck.

LYNETTE

I slept horribly. I never sleep well when I'm alone.

BRANDLE

Wish I knew the feeling.

LYNETTE

What are you writing in that notebook of yours?

BRANDLE

Stuff I have to do. Errands. Before I reach Atlantic City.

LYNETTE
Do you have a woman in your life,
Brother Brandle?

BRANDLE
Nope.

Brandle carries his coffee cup into the kitchen.

LYNETTE
Don't you ever get lonely, without
female companionship?

Brandle steps around Lynette, who is blocking his way to the
counter, puts his coffee cup in the sink.

BRANDLE
To tell you the truth, it's quite
peaceful.

Brandle walks out of the kitchen. Lynette opens her robe
ever-so-slightly.

LYNETTE
Don't you want to stay and talk just
a little bit longer?

She puts a hand on his shoulder.

BRANDLE
I've got a lot to do today.

EXT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- DAY

Brandle nudges a Cody with his foot.

BRANDLE
Rise and shine, sweetheart.

CODY
The fuck?

BRANDLE
It's eight o'clock. Time to go.

CODY
Go where?

BRANDLE
Sightseeing.

CODY
Go yourself. I got work to do.

BRANDLE
Jesus Christ. No wonder you don't
have a job. Get up.

Brandle lifts Cody to his feet. Cody fights him off.

CODY
I can get up myself.

Brandle tosses a couple bills at Cody.

BRANDLE
You're working for me now.

Cody counts the bills. Brandle walks toward Cody's truck.
Brandle's Chrysler is covered in a tarp.

CODY
My truck battery don't work.
Remember?

BRANDLE
I switched it with mine.

EXT. COTTONWOOD -- DAY

Cody's truck drives down the main drag, heading away from
home. It passes a motel.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Cody drives. Brandle checks his notebook.

CODY
So what the hell you want to do today?

BRANDLE
I need some new clothes.

CODY
Didn't you bring anything else to
wear?

BRANDLE
I like to travel light.

CODY
You ain't gonna find none of your
fancy pants Armani stuff around here.

BRANDLE
That's not what I'm looking for.

INT. GOODWILL -- DAY

Cody flips through a rack of dresses. Brandle comes out of a dressing room. Cody quickly takes his hand away from the dresses, turns around. Brandle models poorly fitting second-hand clothes.

BRANDLE
What do you think?

CODY
You look more ridiculous now than
you did with your fag clothes on.

INT. BARBER SHOP -- DAY

Cody, hair shorn, looks at a police poster on the wall. Title: Meth Kills, with before and after mugshots of meth addicts. The before shots have shiny hair, plump faces, smooth skin, alert eyes. The after: stringy hair, hollow cheekbones, abscessed skin, dead eyes. A BARBER holds up a mirror for Brandle, hair also shorn, to check himself. Brandle nods.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Brandle checks his notebook. Cody flips on the boom box. Brandle turns the boom box off.

CODY
The fuck?

BRANDLE
I can't concentrate with the music
on.

CODY
This is my truck.

BRANDLE
And you're my employee for the day.

Cody reaches for the boom box switch. Brandle throws the boom box out the window.

CODY
The hell, Brandle? That had my best Merle Haggard tape in it.

BRANDLE
I'll buy you a new one, okay?
Something you can plug a god damned iPod into, okay?

CODY
You think you're the big shot, don't you? Throwing your money around all the time.

BRANDLE
At least I've got it.

Cody doesn't have a comeback. Brandle points at the road ahead.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)
Look out.

Cody puts on the brakes to avoid hitting a car that has swerved in front of him.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)
Where are you headed, Cody?

EXT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- DAY

The day after. In broad daylight, the blush is off the casino. Just another low-slung building in a desert landscape. Cody's pickup drives through the archway, up the hill.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Cody slows the truck for valet parking.

BRANDLE
Keep going.

CODY
What? Not the big shot any more?

BRANDLE
Shut up and drive around back.

EXT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- PARKING LOT -- DAY

The lot is half empty. Cody's pickup moves along the back edge.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Cody shakes his head.

CODY
There's spaces up at the entrance.

BRANDLE
This is good.

EXT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- PARKING LOT -- DAY

Cody's pickup comes to a stop near a gate to a dirt road. Cody and Brandle get out of the truck. Brandle inspects the gate. He makes a note in his book. Cody looks around to see if they're being watched.

BRANDLE
Where does this road lead?

CODY
It cuts down and meets the highway a couple miles from here.

Brandle makes a note.

CODY (CONT'D)
I'm punchin' out. Let's just get a fuckin' beer, okay? On me.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- BAR -- DAY

Brandle and Cody sit at the same table as before. Only a few gamblers on the floor.

BRANDLE
Pretty dead in here, huh?

CODY

Ain't nobody got money 'round here.
Except the Indians. And they don't
get paid 'til the end of the month.

BRANDLE

That's in a couple of days.

CODY

Place'll really be hoppin'. Too bad
you'll be gone by then.

BRANDLE

How much do the Indians get a month?

CODY

The kids get twenty five hundred,
adults five g's.

BRANDLE

That's a big chunk of change. And
the security around here--a joke.
You seen the limp dicks in the red
coats? They couldn't stop a runny
nose.

CODY

They got a couple off-duty cops.

BRANDLE

Where?

CODY

Walkin' around some. Mostly sittin'
in the restaurant.

BRANDLE

They armed?

CODY

Probably.

BRANDLE

Bet they aren't allowed to open fire
in the building. Unless one of them
thinks he's a hero.

CODY
Listen, Brandle, could we just drop
the subject?

BRANDLE
Why? Seems like you've put some
thought into this yourself.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- DAY

Lynette cooking. She's in a buoyant mood.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- BAR -- DAY

Cody and Brandle.

CODY
You can make your fantasy plans all
you want, but I ain't doin' it.

BRANDLE
Give me one good reason.

CODY
I gone straight.

BRANDLE
You've gone straight?

CODY
Lynette and I's buildin' a life
together, in case you haven't noticed.

Brandle chews the ice cubes from his drink.

BRANDLE
How's that going, Cody?

Cody doesn't have an answer.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)
Tell me, when exactly did you decide
to go straight? About eight years
ago? After I went to the can for
you?

CODY
You didn't go to the can for me.

BRANDLE

You want to bet I didn't? The DA offered to cut my time in half if I just rolled over on my partner. But I couldn't rat out my own brother--unlike you.

CODY

I didn't roll over on you.

BRANDLE

How did he know where to find the cash? Who could have told him?

CODY

Maybe the garbage man found it. It was hidden in a fuckin' dumpster for chrissakes.

BRANDLE

A dumpster that wouldn't have been emptied for three days. And when the money was found, 20K was missing. You think someone found the money and just left most of it behind? They count the fuckin' money lost from a bank robbery, Cody. They know exactly what they're missing.

CODY

You should have had a better alibi.

BRANDLE

We were a good team, Cody. Look at what you've done without me. Your life is a fucking mess. Now, I intend to leave for Atlantic City on the first of the month. I intend to do it with all the money I can get out of this place. And I intend to do it with your help. I said I got no hard feelings about the past, and that's true. This is business. I'm calling in a favor.

CODY

And if I don't?

BRANDLE
I know where you live.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- DAY

A steak sizzles as Lynette drops it into a skillet.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- BAR

Cody and Brandle.

CODY
What about Lynette?

BRANDLE
What about her?

CODY
Where does she fit into all this?

BRANDLE
She'll drive getaway. We'll take
that dirt road out of here. Is there
a place to switch cars down there?

CODY
Yeah. There's a overpass.

BRANDLE
We'll get down there, switch cars,
and kick her to the side of the curb.

CODY
I don't know.

BRANDLE
She's no good, Cody. I knew it the
minute I saw her. And you've got to
trust me on this one.

EXT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- DAY

The silver Chrysler drives through the archway and up the
hill toward the entrance.

EXT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- DAY

The Chrysler stops at valet parking. Two THUGS get out. The thug on the drivers' side tosses the key to a valet.

EXT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- DAY

Cody and Brandle walk out of the casino.

BRANDLE

I'm sorry to do it to you this way,
bro, but look at the bright side:
you can make a fresh start with me
in Atlantic City.

EXT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- PARKING LOT -- DAY

Cody's pickup drives out of the lot, the silver Chrysler, driven by the valet, into the lot.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Cody drives. Brandle turns to watch the Chrysler pass.

CODY

The hell are you lookin' at?

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- BAR -- DAY

The two thugs talk with the BARTENDER. He points toward Cody and Brandle's table. The thugs nod toward each other.

EXT. "COWBOY SHOP" WESTERN WEAR -- DAY

Cody's pickup pulls into the parking lot.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Brandle looks at his checklist. Cody cuts the engine.

BRANDLE

Where are you going? We've still
got stuff to do.

CODY

We got plenty of time. Just wait
here, would you?

INT. "COWBOY SHOP" WESTERN WEAR -- DAY

Cody enters. A CASHIER looks up from reading a newspaper.

CASHIER

Can I help you?

CODY

Naw. I'm just lookin' around.

Cody walks toward the men's section, looks over his shoulder at the cashier, who is back to reading his paper. Cody walks to the women's section, flips through a rack of dresses. He finds one he likes, holds it up.

BRANDLE

I'd get her the blue one if I were you.

Cody turns. Brandle tries on a black cowboy hat.

CODY

I thought I told you to stay in the truck?

BRANDLE

Sorry. I was in need of a new hat.

Brandle models the hat in a mirror.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)

What do you think?

CODY

I think you're tryin' too hard.

Cody walks toward the cashier with the red dress.

BRANDLE

Seriously, bro, red don't suit her. She needs something that'll bring out the color of her eyes.

INT. CIRCLE-K -- DAY

Mikey behind the counter. He looks at a cluster of black-and-white security camera monitors, each with a different angle on the store, including one fixed on him.

He steps backward toward a rack of cigarettes. Behind his back, out of view of the cameras, he picks up a pack of cigarettes. He steps toward the counter, opens a lock box underneath the register. In the box are large bills, packets of meth, and a handgun. Mikey puts the cigarettes in the box. Cody walks in.

MIKEY

Hey, Cody. How's it goin'?

CODY

Same shit, different day.

MIKEY

You gonna need a jump for your truck today?

CODY

Naw. I got a battery.

MIKEY

You come into some money or somethin'?

CODY

My brother's in town. He got it for me.

MIKEY

That's awfully nice of him. That him, out in your truck?

CODY

Yeah. That's him. Lynette been in here today?

MIKEY

I ain't seen her yet.

Cody puts two Budweiser and Clamato tall boys on the counter. Mikey rings up the sale. Cody puts forty dollars on the counter.

CODY

Good. Keep the change. Put it toward what she owes you. I'll get you the rest soon.

Cody walks toward the door.

MIKEY
Hey, Cody?

CODY
What?

MIKEY
I got a cousin works over at KFC.

CODY
So?

MIKEY
I told him you were looking for a
job. He said he's got an opening.
You interested?

CODY
Yeah. Sure.

MIKEY
He said you could stop by tomorrow.
In the morning. His name's Charlie,
but everyone calls him, "Tork."

EXT. HORSE RANCH -- DAY

Cody's truck pulls up next to the white-washed fence.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Cody opens a beer, hands it to Brande, opens one for himself.

BRANDE
The hell are we doing here?

CODY
This is what I do.

BRANDE
Drink beer and look at horses?

CODY
I ain't just lookin' at horses.

BRANDE
What are you doing then?

CODY
I'm imaginin' what it'd be like to
live in that house there.

BRANDLE
Smells like horse shit.

CODY
You been in the city too long.

Brandle sips on his beer, nearly gags.

CODY (CONT'D)
The taste'll grow on you.

BRANDLE
So this is what you do all day long?
Sit and daydream about what someone
else has got?

CODY
It ain't just daydreamin'. One day
I'm gonna buy that house. I got a
plan.

BRANDLE
Does Lynette know about this plan?

CODY
We talked about it.

BRANDLE
You talked about it, huh? A little
house in the country together?

CODY
Yeah.

BRANDLE
I bet she'd rather rob a casino.

Cody tenses.

CODY
Listen, I tired of you always bringin'
up Lynette the way you been doin'.
(MORE)

CODY (CONT'D)

You can make all your notes and shit if you want, get yourself put back in the clink, but I ain't gonna have any part in it. Got it? I'm goin' someplace. And not a word about any of this to Lynette.

BRANDLE

I'm just trying to look out for your best interests. Like I've always done.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

Cody and Brandle sit at the dining room table. Lynette walks out of the back room modeling the red dress Cody bought for her. The color isn't quite right for her, but she fills the dress out well.

LYNETTE

Well, boys, what do you think?

CODY

You look great.

BRANDLE

Very nice. Very nice.

Lynette kisses Cody on the cheek, looks at Brandle while she's doing it.

LYNETTE

You done good, Cody. Real good.
You boys ready to eat?

CODY

Oh yeah.

Lynette walks into the kitchen.

LYNETTE

I fixed you up somethin' real nice.

Lynette turns the stove burners back on.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)
Cody, would you mind settin' the
table for us?

Cody gets plates, puts them on the table. Lynette serves
the food. The all saw at tough steaks, eat.

BRANDLE
This sure is some good home home
cookin'.

LYNETTE
Why, thank you. You hear that, Cody?
Brother Brandle likes my cookin'.

CODY
I like your cookin' too.

LYNETTE
So, Brother Brandle, what did you
and my husband do today besides get
a couple of makeovers?

CODY
We went sightseeing.

LYNETTE
Pardon you, Cody. I was asking
Brother Brandle.

BRANDLE
He's right. Sightseeing.

LYNETTE
Well, tell me now, what did you see?

BRANDLE
What was the name of that place we
went to, bro?

CODY
Montezuma Castle.

BRANDLE
No. Not that one. The one after
that.

CODY
Montezuma Well?

BRANDLE
No. After that one.

CODY
We didn't go nowhere else.

BRANDLE
I think there was one more place.

CODY
No. There wasn't.

LYNETTE
Where else did you go?

BRANDLE
The casino. I believe we went to
the casino.

Cody kicks Brandle under the table.

LYNETTE
Cody, what are you doin'?

CODY
Nothin'.

LYNETTE
You two went to the casino without
little ol' me, your good luck charm?

BRANDLE
We didn't go there to gamble.

LYNETTE
What did you go there to do?

BRANDLE
Should I tell her, Cody?

Cody gives Brandle the evil eye.

LYNETTE
Tell me what?

BRANDLE
Cody's a little shy to say it, because
he thinks it might upset you.

CODY
I ain't shy.

BRANDLE
Then why don't you tell her?

CODY
You go ahead and tell her.

BRANDLE
Well, all right. If my little brother
doesn't mind, I will. Little sister,
Cody and I talked about robbing the
casino.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Lynette admires herself in the mirror on her makeup table.
Cody looks at the boots on his feet.

LYNETTE
You done good, Cody. Real good.

CODY
You really like the dress?

LYNETTE
It's perfect.

CODY
What about the color? You like the
color?

LYNETTE
The color's real nice.

CODY
You sure? 'Cause I can exchange it
if you would prefer another one.

LYNETTE
Like what?

CODY

I don't know. Blue maybe? Brandle
said--

She looks at herself in the mirror, as if she's imagining
her dress in blue. A smile comes over her.

LYNETTE

No, Cody. I like red just fine.

She smooths the dress with her hands, pushes her chest out,
fingers the locket around her neck.

CODY

Listen, Lynette, that business about
robbin' the casino--

LYNETTE

What about it?

CODY

That's just Brandle runnin' his mouth.
There ain't gonna be no casino
robbery.

LYNETTE

Why not?

CODY

Because it's a hair-brained idea.

LYNETTE

It sounded like he had it pretty
well planned out to me.

CODY

A broad daylight robbery in a place
like this? It might work in Vegas,
but--

LYNETTE

You heard what he said. He's worked
in places with a hundred times the
security we got here. He said this'll
be like takin' candy from a baby.

CODY

We'll be on the run for the rest of our lives.

LYNETTE

Doesn't it sound romantic. We could run away to Mexico together.

CODY

Mexico? The fuck are we gonna do in Mexico? We don't even speak the fuckin' language.

LYNETTE

We'll learn it, Cody. It can't be that hard. And they got beaches, Cody. Like it the beer ads on TV. White sand, palm trees, warm breezes.

CODY

Lynette, you don't need no beach.

Lynette pushes Cody onto the bed, straddles him.

LYNETTE

Cody, you done good with the dress, real good. I feel good for the first time in a long time. Maybe this sickness was just all in my head. Maybe I'm just fine.

CODY

You need to see a doctor.

LYNETTE

They got plenty of doctors in Mexico, Cody.

She kisses him.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)

Shhh. This ain't the time for talk. It's time for action.

Cody kisses her back, caresses her body.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- DAY

Brandle cleans a hand gun at the dining room table. Cody creeps out of the bedroom, boots and shirt in hand. Brandle points his gun at Cody.

BRANDLE
Nobody moves, nobody gets hurt.

CODY
The fuck, Brandle?

BRANDLE
You always were a little skittish.

Brandle puts his gun down.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)
There's some coffee in the pot if
you want some.

Cody pours himself a cup of coffee in the kitchen, sits down at the dining room table, puts his boots on.

CODY
The hell are you doin' up so early?

BRANDLE
Haven't you heard the saying, "The
early bird gets the worm?"

CODY
That your heater?

Brandle holds his gun out to Cody.

BRANDLE
You like it? It's a Glock 23.

Cody takes the gun, aims with it, pulls the trigger.

CODY
Nice piece. If you're a rapper.

BRANDLE
What are you packin' nowadays?

CODY
A real man's gun. Colt .45.

BRANDLE
Should have guessed. You always
liked showpieces. Pearl handle and
all that?

CODY
Damn skippy.

BRANDLE
Well? Let's see it.

CODY
It's in the glove box. Lynette don't
like no guns in the house.

Cody walks toward the front door.

BRANDLE
Where you going?

CODY
You're on your own today. I got
some stuff I gotta take care of.

BRANDLE
What about our plans?

CODY
I hate to break it to you, but we
ain't got no plans.

BRANDLE
That's not what it sounded like last
night.

CODY
When did I ever say I was goin' along
with the plan?

BRANDLE
Walls are pretty thin in here, bro.

Cody walks out the door.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)
Come back soon, or your old lady's
gonna chew my ear off!

EXT. KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN -- DAY

Outside seating area. No shade. Tork wipes his forehead
with his bandanna. Cody sits attentively.

TORK
Mikey told me you need to pay him
off. That true?

CODY
I just need a job.

TORK
How much you into him for?

CODY
It ain't much.

TORK
It ain't much. You like chicken?

CODY
Don't really give a fuck about it,
to be honest.

TORK
You'll fit right in around here.
Neither do we. If Mikey says you're
okay, you're okay. You got any
questions?

CODY
You sell drugs here?

TORK
No. But we don't mind if the
employees use. Makes 'em work harder.

CODY
What about pay?

TORK
After your debts are paid? Minimum
wage.

CODY
You got health insurance?

TORK
No, but we got a savings plan--
something to keep your debts from
getting out of control.

CODY
I ain't gonna need that.

TORK
That's what they all say.

CODY
How soon can I start?

TORK
You can start right away if you want.
Just had some dumbshit put his hand
in the fryer this morning.

CODY
Do I gotta fill out an application
or somethin'?

TORK
It's all online now. I'll fill out
the application for you after I get
you a uniform.

INT. HOME DEPOT -- DAY

Brandle whistles to himself as he pushes a shopping cart. He's got bolt cutters, a padlock, a belt-hook key ring with a bunch of uncut keys on it, a box of plastic bags, and a saw in the cart. He checks items off a list in his notebook. He cruises the aisles. When he finds the aisle with lumber, he turns into it.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- DAY

Lynette carries a plastic laundry basket around the house, collects laundry. She pulls Brandle's black dress shirt from a plastic bag from the Goodwill next to the couch. She holds it up to her nose, sniffs it, before putting it in the basket.

INT. KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN -- KITCHEN -- DAY

All the employees stand at their stations, drive through, fryer, register, all looking at Cody, the slow man on the team. Cody checks a monitor for an order, runs around getting all the ingredients for a chicken meal. He makes a mistake, gets his hands dirty, wipes them on his uniform. The employee in drive through walks over to Cody, finishes the meal, stuffs it onto a bag, turns his back on Cody to walk back to the drive through window.

EXT. HOME DEPOT -- DAY

Brandle loads his supplies, including lumber, a hammer and nails, into the back of Lynette's beat up economy car. He looks up when he closes the door. On the street, a silver Chrysler with Nevada plates drives by.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- DAY

Lynette takes laundry out of a dryer. When she gets to Brandle's shirt, she holds it up in front of her. It's shrunk and misshapen.

EXT. SMOKE N' GUNS -- DAY

Brandle pulls up to a small, free-standing gun shop in Lynette's car, parks.

INT. SMOKE N' GUNS -- DAY

A large BIKER, tattoos, beard, leather vest with patches, hairy arms, no shirt underneath, plays an antiquated video game on an small tube television. Behind the counter, cigarettes and cheap cigars for sale. The walls are lined with guns of every type, handgun to assault rifle. A 50 caliber sniper rifle, complete with tripod, hangs from the ceiling. Brandle opens the door. A bell rings. Brandle looks around. The biker loses his game, tosses the game controller on the counter.

BIKER

What you see there is fully automatic.

Brandle nods.

BIKER (CONT'D)
You lookin' for anything in
particular?

BRANDLE
I need a couple of shotguns.

BIKER
Game or targets?

BRANDLE
Home defense.

BIKER
Registered or un-?

BRANDLE
Un.

BIKER
I might have something in the back
for you. Don't take anything while
I'm gone.

The biker walks into a back room. Brandle picks up a sign
from the counter: "Shoplifters will be shot on the spot."
The biker comes out of the back with two shotguns. Brandle
looks them over. The serial numbers have been scratched
off. Brandle feels the weight of the weapon in his hands.
Hold it up to aim.

BIKER (CONT'D)
They're semi-automatic. Enlarged
magazines.

BRANDLE
You got any holsters?

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- BEDROOM -- DAY

Lynette turns on the TV. Sits on the bed, folds the laundry
from the dryer.

EXT. KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN -- DAY

Cody at a table in the outdoor seating area, eating a chicken
sandwich. His hair a sweaty mess, food on his uniform.

INT. "COWBOY SHOP" WESTERN WEAR -- DAY

Brandle tosses two black cowboy hats, two dusters on the counter. The cashier looks up from his newspaper. Brandle smiles.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- BEDROOM -- DAY

Lynette asleep in front of the TV. On the TV screen, a beer ad set on a beautiful white sand beach, palm trees and a warm breeze. Brandle's shirt next to her.

INT. KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN -- KITCHEN -- DAY

Cody still running around, but he's not holding up the other employees. He packs up a chicken meal, wipes sweat from his brow with the back of his hand. Tork comes out of the back room.

TORK

Cody!

Cody turns.

CODY

Yeah?

Cody wipes his hands on a towel.

TORK

Time to get the fuck out of here.

EXT. KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN -- DAY

Tork and Cody stand at the entrance. Cody looks pale and exhausted.

TORK

Good work, Cody. Don't worry, you'll get used to the heat.

He pats Cody on the back, hands him a bucket of chicken.

TORK (CONT'D)

Take this home for your family.

CODY

When do I come back?

TORK
Tomorrow morning, 6 a.m.

Cody turns to leave.

TORK (CONT'D)
Try not to stay up all night. That's
how the last guy turned his hand
into a chicken patty.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- BEDROOM -- DAY

The sound of a car pulling into the driveway. Lynette wakes,
puts Brandle's shirt onto the other folded clothes.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- DAY

Lynette walks into the living room. She wears a robe and
carries the laundry basket. The sound of stuff being tossed
down outside the front door.

EXT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- DAY

Brandle unloads bags of stuff from Lynette's car, tosses it
next to the front door. Lynette opens the door.

LYNETTE
I been waitin' for you all day long.
Where you been?

BRANDLE
Taking care of stuff.

LYNETTE
Casino stuff?

BRANDLE
Mostly.

LYNETTE
You're really serious about doing
it, aren't you?

BRANDLE
You bet your ass I am. There's two
things I don't joke around about.
One of them's business.

LYNETTE
What's the other?

Brandle unpacks the lumber, saw, hammer and nails.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)
It's been lonely while you've been
away.

BRANDLE
Has it?

LYNETTE
Sure has.

BRANDLE
You get lonely a lot?

LYNETTE
Not more than any other girl, I guess.

BRANDLE
What about Cody? He been home yet?

LYNETTE
I ain't seen him. You want to come
in and take a load off?

Brandle looks up from his work.

BRANDLE
And do what?

LYNETTE
Well, I still ain't heard none of
those stories about you and Cody
when you was kids.

BRANDLE
Little sister, I got shit to do.
Why don't you go inside, put some
clothes on, and think about fixin'
us some dinner?

EXT. COTTONWOOD -- DAY

Cody's pickup stops at a traffic light.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Cody changes out of his KFC uniform, into his regular clothes. The needle on his gas gauge almost touches the "E" for empty line.

EXT. HORSE RANCH -- DAY

Cody's pickup speeds past the horse ranch.

EXT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- DAY

New stairs made of fresh lumber lead from the dirt of the yard to the front door. Brandle, wearing nothing but an undershirt, looking trim and muscular, pins the barrel of a shotgun to the stairs, saws off the stock. Cody's pickup pulls in, kicking up dust. Cody gets out, carrying a bucket of Kentucky Fried Chicken. Brandle saws through the stock and it falls to the ground.

CODY

The fuck are you doin'?

BRANDLE

What's it look like? Fixing your fucking stairs.

CODY

My stairs didn't need no fixin'.

BRANDLE

Well, at least you got your washtub back. You can take a bath now.

CODY

Where's Lynette?

BRANDLE

Inside.

Cody walks up the steps.

CODY

Lynette!

BRANDLE

Hey, hold on a second. I got something for you.

CODY

What?

Brandle pulls a black hat out of a bag, puts it on Cody, then a shoulder holster, and a duster, puts them on him, too. He does the same for himself. Brandle hands Cody the sawed-off shotgun, holds one for himself.

BRANDLE

What do you think? We look like a couple of bad asses, don't we?

CODY

This ain't never gonna fly.

BRANDLE

You know why nothing ever works out for you, Cody? Because you've got a negative attitude. You gotta dress right to feel right, you know. You ever read that book "Dress for Success?"

CODY

Sure. Every day.

BRANDLE

That's right, you didn't have as much time for books as I did while I was in the can. Maybe I'll pick it up for you. Or maybe you can get it when you go back.

CODY

I ain't goin' back to prison. I gotta talk to--

Lynette opens the front door.

LYNETTE

Did I hear you callin' for me, Cody? Oh, my. Look at you two. I don't know which of you looks more handsome.

CODY

Lynette, I gotta talk to you.

Lynette sees the bucket of chicken on the stairs.

LYNETTE

Oh, Cody. I already set to fixing us something. Don't you just love Brother Brandle's work on the stairs? He does such a great job of fixing things up. I think he should stay much longer--

CODY

Lynette, let's talk inside.

LYNETTE

Can't it wait, Cody. I think something's boiling over.

Lynette rushes back into the house.

BRANDLE

Don't worry, bro. You got all night to talk. Let's go test these bad boys out.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- KITCHEN -- DAY

Lynette turns the burner down on a pot that's boiling over. She dips a finger into a pan to taste what she's cooking.

EXT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- DAY

In the wilderness, just beyond the yard of Cody's trailer home, Cody and Brandle stand with sawed off shotguns in shoulder holsters. About ten yards away, a weathered gas can on a tree stump.

BRANDLE

Three, two, one...draw.

Cody and Brandle draw their shotguns at the same time, fire. The can jumps from the stump, falls to the ground with gaping holes in it.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)

You still got it, bro. Want to go for two out of three?

CODY

Is that two for you or two for me?

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- KITCHEN -- DAY

Lynette cooks, starts at the report of the shotgun fire outside.

EXT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

Warm lights shine from inside Cody's trailer home.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- DAY

Cody, Brandle and Lynette sit at the dining room table, eat dinner from paper plates. Brandle tells a story.

BRANDLE

I'm inside the car hotwiring the engine. Cody's on the passenger side as a lookout. And the owner of the car comes running out the house, with a baseball bat held up like this, and Cody shifts his pants. I mean literally shifts in his pants. I get the thing started, . He's standing outside, banging on the window, "Let me in, Brandle! Let me in!" And I decide to pull his chain a little pull forward. You should have seen the look on his face. Car stunk to high hell when we finally got it to the chop shop. Had to take two hundred bucks less--and get my little bro some new skivvies.

LYNETTE

Was that the first thing you two stole together?

BRANDLE

The first thing of consequence. A '72 Monte Carlo if I remember correctly. Metallic blue.

CODY

'74.

BRANDLE

Same difference.

LYNETTE

So tell me, how you two boys planning
on robbing the casino?

BRANDLE

It isn't going to be just the two of
us, little sister. We're going to
need your help, too.

LYNETTE

My help?

BRANDLE

Sure. This is a family business,
right Cody?

CODY

I still ain't agreed.

BRANDLE

All for one and one for all. You're
going to drive the getaway car--

LYNETTE

The getaway car?

BRANDLE

That's right. One of the most
important jobs in the whole heist.
And, we're going to need your special
talents to lift the keys off one of
the managers.

Brandle pulls out the key chain with the blanks on it, jingles
them.

LYNETTE

What are my special skills?

BRANDLE

I think it'll be obvious. Cody, you
want to help me move some of the
furniture on the living room?

EXT. CIRCLE-K -- NIGHT

The silver Chrysler parked in the lot. Through the windows,
the two thugs talk with Mikey at the cash register.

Mikey points up the street toward Cody's trailer home.

INT. CIRCLE-K -- NIGHT

The thugs walk out the door. Mikey checks the authenticity of a fifty-dollar bill by holding it up to the light.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

Lynette clears the dinner dishes. Cody and Brandle move furniture in the living room.

CODY

There any reason we gotta do this right now?

BRANDLE

No time like the present, I always say.

CODY

The Injuns don't get their money 'til the end of the month.

BRANDLE

Humor me a little, bro. And your wife. She looks like she's enjoying this.

Lynette comes back out of the kitchen.

LYNETTE

All done. What are we doing now?

BRANDLE

You ever stolen anything before?

LYNETTE

Why, me? Never.

BRANDLE

Never picked a pocket?

LYNETTE

Of course not.

BRANDLE

All right, then. We'll start at the beginning. Now, the goal of the heist is to get that money cart they push around the place to collect cash from the gaming tables. I'll be at the blackjack tables, on the end, where they finish. Cody'll be at the video poker machines on the other side. He'll give me cover, and clean out the drawers at the cashier's windows. You, my dear, need to get the keys off one of the managers, then you'll wait for us in the getaway car and drive us the fuck out of there when we have the money.

LYNETTE

You boys going to use guns?

BRANDLE

We'll be armed, but don't worry, it's for our own protection.

LYNETTE

All right.

BRANDLE

Now Cody here'll act like a manager. Put these keys on your belt, Cody. And you, little sister, just pretend like you're drunk. Everything works better if you act drunk. Just walk by Cody here, brush up against him a little--to create a diversion--and lift the keys off his belt. Got it?

LYNETTE

I think I can give it a try.

Lynette walks past Cody, bumps into him.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)

Oh, excuse me, sir. I think I need to watch where I'm going.

She walks away. Cody reaches down to his belt, where the keys should be, but they aren't there. Lynette holds them up, jingles them.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)

How's that?

BRANDLE

Cody's a little too easily distracted.
Let me see those.

Brandle puts the keys on his belt.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)

Try again.

Lynette walks up to Brandle, looks him deep in the eyes, brushes against him ever so slightly.

LYNETTE

Oh, excuse me. I think I'm a little drunk.

She walks away. Brandle reaches down to his belt: the keys are gone. He smiles.

BRANDLE

That's some good work, little sister.

LYNETTE

You want me to go for your wallet next?

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Lynette and Cody enter.

LYNETTE

Oh, Cody. Isn't this exciting?
We're gonna be real life bandits.

Cody kicks off his boots.

CODY

It ain't as exciting as it's made out to be.

She takes him in her arms.

LYNETTE

Where do you want to go when it's all over? I seen this poster once, in a travel agency--this was before you and me--it's called "Cozumel." Doesn't sound just like a dream. Say the word with me: "Co-zu-mel." Come on, Cody. Say it just once: Co-zu--

Cody pushes her away.

CODY

It's already over, Lynette. And I ain't goin' to Mexico.

LYNETTE

Over? It hasn't even started.

CODY

I got a job today, Lynette. There ain't gonna be no robbery.

LYNETTE

A job?

CODY

Mikey set me up with a cousin of his down at KFC.

LYNETTE

Why didn't you tell me?

CODY

I didn't want to get your hopes up until I got the job.

LYNETTE

What about all this? Why're you going along with Brandle like you're doing?

CODY

I dodn't want to get him worked up.

LYNETTE

He seems perfectly nice to me.

CODY

You don't know him like I do, okay?
I told you he had three days here.
What he wanted to do in that time
was his business. I got you a dress.
I got the rent money. What more do
you want?

LYNETTE

I want to live, Cody.

Cody takes hold of her.

CODY

Baby, this is the break we been
waitin' for. We seen rock bottom.
It's straight up from here.

LYNETTE

No--

CODY

Listen to me. It's like we always
said. I start with this job at KFC,
we save a little money, I get me
some tools, go into business for
myself. We'll have the money we'd
get from the casino ten times over--

LYNETTE

How long will that take?

CODY

Two, three years--tops. I'll get us
that ranch house down the street--
I'll get us some in-suranace. You
can go back to the doctor--

Lynette starts crying.

CODY (CONT'D)

Baby, what's wrong?

LYNETTE

That's your dream, Cody. Not mine.
(MORE)

LYNETTE (CONT'D)

And when you talk like that--I know you mean well--but I just feel like my dream is dying. When you say those words, it's like it's drifting away from me, out of my reach--

Cody looks her in the eye.

CODY

Lynette. This is our chance. You gotta let me know: Are you in it with me or not?

Lynette shakes her head, looks down at her hands.

LYNETTE

I'm sorry, Cody--

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

Brandle on the couch, going over his notes. Cody comes out of the bedroom, heads straight for the front door.

CODY

I want you the fuck out of here tomorrow. Got it?

BRANDLE

Is that a threat, Cody?

CODY

It's whatever you want it to be.

EXT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

Cody walks down the new steps from the front door, to the driveway, down the street.

EXT. CODY'S STREET -- NIGHT

Up the street from Cody's trailer home, the silver Chrysler. A pile of cigarette butts next to the driver's side door.

EXT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

Cody walks down the street, toward the ranch house.

EXT. HORSE RANCH -- NIGHT

Cody picks up an apple fallen from a tree, feeds it to one of the horses. Up the street, the lights in Cody's trailer home go out.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- BEDROOM

Lynette on the bed, facing the door. Brandle appears in the doorway.

BRANDLE
The hell's happening with Cody?

LYNETTE
He's out.

BRANDLE
I know he's out. He just told me.
What happened between you two?

LYNETTE
Does it matter?

She loosens her robe.

BRANDLE
Yes, it matters a hell of a lot.

LYNETTE
Tell me about Atlantic City.

BRANDLE
Cody walks out, and you want to talk
about is Atlantic City?

LYNETTE
Yes. I want you to take me with
you. We don't need him for the
casino. We can do it alone. Just
the two of us.

She reaches for his belt. He pushes her hands away.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)
Nobody's ever pushed me away before.

BRANDLE

There's a first time for everything.
How the fuck you think you and I
going to rob the casino? I need
Cody. You need Cody. This job
doesn't get done without him. You
understand? We need him. He's the
only one who knows how to handle a
weapon between the two of you, and
I'm going to need cover.

LYNETTE

I know all about handling things.

She opens his belt buckle.

BRANDLE

When he gets back, I don't care how
you do it, you get him back on board,
you hear me?

LYNETTE

Anything you say, Brother Brandle.
Will you take me with you?

BRANDLE

I'll think about it.

LYNETTE

And the two of us keeping the money,
just you and me?

BRANDLE

I'll think about that, too.

EXT. CODY'S STREET -- NIGHT

Up the street, past his house, the silver Chrysler engine
starts. The lights go on. Cody turns toward the car,
watches it roll down the street, turn into his driveway.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Brandle and Lynette make out. He reaches for her breast,
she blocks his hand. He pushes her down on the bed, gets on
top of her. He tries to pull back her robe, she holds it
shut. They struggle for a moment. Her robe flies open.
She's wearing a bra. He takes it off. She lets him.

She's got one beautiful breast, and--where the other should be--nothing but a large scar.

BRANDLE
The hell is wrong with you?

She wraps herself up in her robe.

LYNETTE
There is nothing wrong with me.

BRANDLE
You've got one tit.

EXT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

The Chrysler comes to a stop.

EXT. HORSE RANCH -- NIGHT

Cody walks back toward his trailer home. When the two thugs get out of the Chrysler and walk toward his front door, Cody breaks out into a run.

EXT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

The two thugs, on the doorstep, draw handguns. They open the door to the trailer home.

EXT. CODY'S STREET -- NIGHT

Cody sprints toward his trailer home.

CODY
Hey! Hey you!

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

The two thugs check the trailer home. On the coffee table, next to the couch, one of them finds Brandle's gun. He picks it up. From the bedroom, low moans and groans. One of the thugs signals to the other in the direction of the bedroom. He steps, knocks over the vase with the flowers from Brandle, which was on a side table in the hallway.

EXT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Brandle and Lynette freeze.

LYNETTE
What was that?

BRANDLE
Cody.

LYNETTE
Cody? Is that you? Cody!

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

The two thugs, guns drawn, creep toward the bedroom door.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Brandle makes a shooing motion at Lynette with his hand.

BRANDLE
Get down.

LYNETTE
What's going on?

BRANDLE
I don't know.

Brandle walks toward a lamp, takes the shade off.

LYNETTE
What are you doing?

BRANDLE
I left my gun in the living room.
Now get down.

LYNETTE
You're not going to hurt Cody, are
you?

Lynette crawls behind the bed.

BRANDLE
It isn't Cody out there.

EXT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

Cody tears open the door to his pickup, gets his gun out of
the glove box, runs toward the door.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- BEDROOM

Brandle stands at the doorway, his shirt unbuttoned, pants open, no shoes on. He holds the lamp base like a baseball bat.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

The two thugs stand at the door to Cody's bedroom. One holds up three fingers, then two, then one...until the front door flies open. The two thugs turn, guns pointed, to Cody, who also has his gun drawn. Cody fires two shots, one to the chest of each thug. Lynette screams in the bedroom. The thugs' guns go off errantly as they fall to the ground, one against the wall, one in the doorway. Brandle opens the bedroom door, comes out with the lamp base raised over his head, ready to strike. Cody aims his pistol at Brandle.

CODY

Brandle? The fuck are you doin'?

Brandle lowers the lamp.

BRANDLE

Getting ready to kick some fucking ass. What does it look like I'm doing?

Brandle raises the lamp base over the head of one of the thugs.

CODY

Wait!

BRANDLE

What?

CODY

I shot them in self defense. Don't fuck with them.

BRANDLE

So?

Both thugs struggle to breathe. One of them reaches for a gun which is just out of his reach.

CODY

So, they're still alive. We need to
call an ambulance. And the cops.

Brandle sees the thug reaching for his gun. Brandle steps
on the thug's hand. The thug groans. Lynette, wrapped in a
blanket, appears in the doorway.

LYNETTE

Cody? Are you all right?

CODY

Lynette? Brandle, the fuck is goin'
on here?

LYNETTE

Oh, god, they're still alive!

BRANDLE

Cody, take a seat. You, too, little
sis. You both are in shock, that's
all. I'll make the phone calls, and
we'll get to the bottom of who these
guys are.

Brandle gives Lynette a hand, helps her step over the thug
in the doorway, leads her to the dining room table. She
sits.

CODY

Who are these guys?

BRANDLE

How the hell should I know? Give me
the gun, bro.

Cody gives Brandle his gun.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)

That's better. Just have a seat.

Cody sits. Brandle checks the thugs' pockets.

LYNETTE

Did Mikey send these guys?

CODY

No. They ain't from around here.
The fuck were you doin' in the bedroom
with Brandle?

LYNETTE

We were just...talking--

CODY

Talking about what?

Brandle finds a wallet on each thug. He checks their IDs.

BRANDLE

This one here's Angelo Delmonico,
and this one's Frank Calabri.

CODY

You know these guys?

BRANDLE

Never seen them before in my life.
Probably fake IDs. Who knows what
their real names are.

Cody stands.

CODY

I'm callin' the cops.

BRANDLE

No, don't.

CODY

I ain't gonna let these guys just
die here in my living room--

Brandle, using Cody's pistol, shoots both thugs in the head,
at point blank range. Lynette screams, holds the blanket up
over her eyes.

BRANDLE

Too late.

LYNETTE

Oh my god, make it stop! Make it
stop!

Cody rushes Brandle.

CODY
The fuck, Brandle? You just murdered
two men! With my fuckin' gun!

BRANDLE
I told you you owed me, Cody. Now
there's only one way out of here--
for all of us. Are you on board?

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- BEDROOM -- NIGHT

One body on the bed. Cody and Brandle carry in the second.

BRANDLE
Ready? On three. One...two...

CODY
Three.

Cody and Brandle heave the body onto the bed.

BRANDLE
I'm sorry it has to go down this
way, bro.

CODY
Is anything you said true?

BRANDLE
Most of it, yeah.

CODY
What did they want you for?

BRANDLE
Drug deal gone bad.

CODY
You keep the money?

BRANDLE
They weren't paying me enough.

CODY
The fuck, Brandle?

BRANDLE

Listen, Vegas sucked, okay bro?
That cell mate I told you about? He
promised to go 50-50 with me, but he
was always holding out. I am going
to Atlantic City. Why don't you
come with me, bro. We make a good
team. Always have.

CODY

What about Lynette?

BRANDLE

What about her? I tried to tell you
the nice way. She's been just waiting
to jump me the whole time I've been
here. She wanted to shut you out
and run off with me.

CODY

That why you were in my bedroom with
her?

BRANDLE

You didn't listen. How else was I
supposed to show you.

CODY

You got a hell of a way of makin'
things right.

BRANDLE

It's not too late, Cody. We take
the money, get out of town, and we
kick her to the curb.

CODY

Someone's gonna have to make sure
they don't have any dental records.

BRANDLE

I'll do it.

CODY

Fine. I'll go get some gas.

Cody heads for the door.

BRANDLE
Cody?

CODY
What?

BRANDLE
Look on the bright side. At least
we got an decoy out of the deal.

CODY
Anyone else know you're out here?

BRANDLE
No. No one.

CODY
What about the registration on you
car?

Brandle picks up the lamp base.

BRANDLE
It's stolen. So are the plates.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

Lynette gathers knick-knacks into a plastic bag. From the bedroom, the thud of bodies being struck, and the grunt of Brandle putting in a full effort. Cody walks from the bedroom to the front door.

LYNETTE
Cody, what did Brandle tell you?
Whatever it is, he can't be telling
the truth--

EXT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

Cody steps out of his trailer home. He looks around. He heads toward where he and Brandle were shooting at the gas can earlier. He picks up the gas can. Full of holes.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

Lynette packs her things. Brandle comes out of the bedroom, walks to the kitchen, rinses you the coffee pot.

BRANDLE

I thought about your offer, little sister, and I think it's best if we go our separate ways when this is all over--

EXT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

Cody siphons gas from the silver Chrysler into a washbasin.

INT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

Lynette sits at the dining room table, a bag of knick-knacks at her feet. Brandle puts a cup of coffee next to her, takes a seat at the dining room table, looks over his notebook. Cody walks in with a washbasin full of gasoline.

BRANDLE

You want a hand, bro?

EXT. CODY'S TRAILER HOME -- NIGHT

Brandle, holding a large duffel bag, and Lynette, holding her bag of knick-knacks, stand outside the trailer. Cody backs out, dumping the last of the gasoline from the washbasin. He tosses the washbasin in the trailer, lights a piece of junk mail on fire, tosses it in the trailer. Brandle turns and walks toward the silver Chrysler. Lynette stares at the trailer home, flames beginning to rise in the windows. Cody turns her toward the pickup truck.

CODY

Come on. Let's get the fuck out of here.

EXT. STREET -- NIGHT

Cody's pickup rolls down the hill toward the Circle-K. The silver Chrysler follows.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- NIGHT

Cody drives. Lynette rides in the passenger seat.

LYNETTE

We get to the casino. I lift the keys from the manager.

(MORE)

LYNETTE (CONT'D)
You take the cash from the window.
Brandle takes the money cart.

CODY
What do you do after you lift he
keys?

LYNETTE
Isn't that obvious?

CODY
This isn't fuckin' around. This is
real. I need to know that you need
every step.

LYNETTE
I lift the keys, I give them to
Brandle at the blackjack table.
Listen, Cody, I need to know what
Brandle told you about what happened
between him and me--

CODY
The fuck.

LYNETTE
What's the matter?

INT. CHRYSLER -- NIGHT

Brandle scans radio stations, both hands on the wheel.
Through the windshield, the brake lights on Cody's pickup go
on, his pickup turns into the Circle-K. Brandle follows.

INT. CIRCLE-K -- NIGHT

Mikey looks out the window as Cody's pickup pulls up next to
a gas pump.

EXT. CIRCLE-K -- NIGHT

Cody cuts the engine, walks over to Brandle's car.

CODY
I gotta get gas. You got any money?

BRANDLE
I gave you three hundred bucks
yesterday.

CODY
I'm gonna need some more.

Brandle peels a bill off a wad.

CODY (CONT'D)
More than that. That guy in there
knows me. I need to keep him quiet.

Brandle peels off another bill. Cody takes it, snatches the
roll from Brandle's hand.

CODY (CONT'D)
I'll bring you the change.

INT. CIRCLE-K -- NIGHT

Mikey takes position behind the register. Cody enters.

MIKEY
Hey, Cody. How's it hangin'?

CODY
Give me ten bucks on pump two, would
ya?

MIKEY
Sure thing. Hey, you look a little
rough around the edges.

CODY
It's been a long night.

MIKEY
Your brother still in town?

CODY
Yeah. He's out there.

MIKEY
Couple friends of his were in here a
few hours ago. They ever find him?

CODY

Yeah.

MIKEY

Said they knew him from way back.
That true?

CODY

Yeah, yeah. They know each other
from school. Listen, how much is
Lynette into you for?

MIKEY

'Bout two hundred dollars.

CODY

Here. With interest.

Cody puts two hundred dollar bills on the counter, and a
twenty.

MIKEY

Tork must really like you. He told
me he gave you the job, but he don't
usually give advances.

CODY

Yeah. He's been real good to me.
Listen, Mikey. You didn't see me in
here tonight, got it?

MIKEY

Didn't see you, huh? That's gonna
cost you a bit more.

Cody peels bills from the wad. He checks the amount with
Mikey, who waits to see the amount he's looking for. The
denominations in the wad get progressively smaller until
Cody throws down the last of them, all ones.

CODY

That's all I got.

Mikey nods, takes the money, puts a paper packet on the
counter.

MIKEY

This one's on the house.

EXT. CIRCLE-K -- NIGHT

Cody walks to his truck, pumps gas.

BRANDLE
Where's the change?

CODY
There isn't any. I had to use it
all.

BRANDLE
Jesus, Cody. You should have told
me. I'm down to my last twenty bucks.

EXT. COTTONWOOD ARIZONA -- NIGHT

Cody's pickup leads Brandle's Chrysler down the road. In
the opposite direction, a fire truck passes, lights and sirens
on.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- NIGHT

Cody runs through the crime in his head, lost in another
place. Lynette watches him. Police cars, an ambulance,
more police cars speed in the opposite direction, lights
flashing, sirens blaring.

LYNETTE
He tried to force himself on me,
Cody.

CODY
Who?

LYNETTE
Brandle.

CODY
That's not what he told me.

LYNETTE
Oh, Cody. I knew he'd lie to you
about it. What did he tell you?
That I came onto him?

CODY

He told me you been eyin' him the whole time he's been here.

LYNETTE

Oh, Cody. That's not true. It's just not true.

CODY

I told you not to mess around with him--

LYNETTE

It was just flirting. Just a little innocent flirting. Your brother's an animal, Cody. He's just an animal. After you went out, he appeared in the doorway and then he...he just attacked me. He threw me down on the bed and he tore open my robe and then he...tore off my bra...and he saw me...and he just said, "What the hell's wrong with you?"

Cody looks at Lynette.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)

Oh, Cody. You know there's nothing wrong with me, is there? You don't think there's anything wrong with me, do you?

Cody shakes his head "no."

LYNETTE (CONT'D)

Please tell me. Tell me there's nothing wrong with me, Cody.

CODY

There's nothing wrong with you.

INT. CHRYSLER -- NIGHT

Brandle follows Cody's pickup. Through the back window of the pickup, Lynette reaches out to Cody, takes him in her arms.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- NIGHT

Lynette rests her head on Cody's shoulder.

LYNETTE

I'm so tired, Cody. Tired of running around--and getting nowhere. All I want to do is get out of this place, Cody. Just take me away from here. I'll do anything you want, go anywhere you want. You want a ranch with horses? Fine. I'll go there with you. I'm just so tired.

Lynette yawns.

CODY

You're gonna have to stay awake for this.

LYNETTE

I sure could use a pick-me-up. You didn't happen to get anything from Mikey when you saw him, did you? Something to keep me going?

She pats down his shirt pockets, feels something, takes out a paper packet.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)

What's this?

EXT. UNDERPASS -- NIGHT

Cody's pickup stops underneath an overpass. Brandle pulls ahead, parks.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- NIGHT

Lynette snorts meth, wipes her nose, holds the packet out to Cody.

LYNETTE

Sure you don't want a little bump? It'll keep you going...

Cody snorts a little meth.

CODY
Get rid of the rest.

LYNETTE
All right, Cody. Whatever you say.

She dumps the rest of the meth out the window, lets go of the paper wrapper.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)
See, Cody? I can be the wife you always wanted. I'll do anything you say. I promise. From here on out.

CODY
Don't you think it's a little late?

LYNETTE
It's never too late to make amends, Cody.

CODY
And it's as simple as that?

LYNETTE
Yes, it is. All I ask is--if we're going to make a fresh start--is that we get as much money as possible. We're going to need to move far away from here. We're going to need new identities. That's going to take some time. Quite a bit of time. And quite a bit of money.

CODY
What are you suggestin'?

LYNETTE
That when we get out of the casino, and we get all the way out here, that Brandle doesn't come any further.

EXT. UNDERPASS -- NIGHT

Cody gets out of his pickup, walks over to Brandle, who has just gotten out of the Chrysler.

BRANDLE
How far is the highway from here?

CODY
'Bout a quarter mile.

BRANDLE
Good We'll take care of business
here, and then you and I are on our
way to Atlantic City on the '40'
before anyone know what hit them.
How far is the '40' from here?

CODY
'Bout three quarters of an hour.
What do you mean, 'take care of
business?'

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- NIGHT

Lynette bites her nails, looks out the window at Cody and
Brandle. Brandle points at Cody, then the passenger side of
the car, then at a place behind the car, makes a motion like
shooting a gun, then turns like he's moving toward the driver
side door. Cody makes a hand gesture in Lynette's direction.
Brandle makes a dismissive gesture.

EXT. UNDERPASS -- NIGHT

Cody puts a hand out to Brandle.

CODY
All right then. Give me the key.

BRANDLE
What for?

CODY
'Cause I'm gonna be drivin'.

BRANDLE
You think I can't find my way out of
here?

CODY
It would be easier if I drove is all
I'm sayin'.

Brandle puts the key in his pocket.

BRANDLE

Fine. You want the key? Take it from me.

CODY

Brandle...

BRANDLE

Come on, little bro. You want the key? It's yours. You just have to take it from me.

Brandle pulls out his gun, stands with his arms at his side, like he's ready to draw. Cody makes a dismissive gesture, walks back toward the truck.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)

Hey, little bro. It was just a test. I would have let you take them. All you had to do was try.

EXT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- NIGHT

Lynette straightens up her blouse. Cody gets in the truck, shuts the door. Brandle opens the door to the drivers' side, gets in, moves around to settle into his seat. Lynette squeezes closer to Cody.

EXT. STREET -- DAY

Sunrise. Cody's pickup rolls along a lonely stretch of road surrounded by desert. The casino in the distance.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Cody and Lynette gnash their teeth, rub their noses. Cody looks at Brandle. Brandle nods in the direction of Lynette, draws a finger across his throat. Cody looks at Lynette. She smiles at him. Cody looks back at the road. Lynette gives him a slow kiss on the cheek, puts a hand on his thigh, squeezes. Cody puts an arm around her. Cody looks at Brandle.

EXT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- DAY

The flashing lights on the arch at the bottom of the hill shut off with the light of day. Cody's pickup drives through the arch and up the hill.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Cody looks straight ahead. Lynette looks at Brandle, who smiles at her.

EXT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- PARKING LOT -- DAY

Cody's pickup stops in front of the barricade. Cody and Brandle get out of the truck. Brandle holds a pair a bolt cutters.

CODY

I gotta take a piss.

BRANDLE

Jesus--

Cody walks past the barricade, into the bushes. Brandle cuts the lock on the barricade. In the distance, a courtesy golf cart, stretched and made to look like a limo, with a GOLF CART DRIVER as a casino employee. He takes two GAMBLERS to their car. Brandle quickly stows the bolt cutters, watches the golf cart, which drops off the gamblers and moves toward Cody's pickup. Brandle reaches into the pickup.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)

Get out here and kiss me.

He pulls Lynette from the truck. He embraces her. Cody comes out of the bushes, zipping his fly, looks up, sees Brandle kissing Lynette. The golf cart approaches, Cody ducks behind a bush.

GOLF CART DRIVER

Hey, you can't park here?

Brandle turns to the driver.

BRANDLE

We ain't parkin'. We're just admirin' the view for a minute.

GOLF CART DRIVER

This here's a fire line. It needs to be clear at all times. If you'd like to pull into a parking space, I'd be happy to give you a lift to the casino.

BRANDLE

That's all right. I think we're about done here, aren't we honey? I'll pull up to the entrance now. I'm feelin' lucky today.

The golf cart pulls away. Cody comes out of the bushes.

CODY

The fuck?

BRANDLE

Nothin' to worry about, little bro. Wasn't even a close call, thanks to your lovely wife. She does a great job of faking affection. Don't you, little sister?

Lynette wrestles free from Brandle.

LYNETTE

I hate you.

BRANDLE

Keep your shirt on, little sister. It isn't personal, it's just business. That's something your husband understands, don't you, Cody?

CODY

Let's just get ready.

Cody and Brandle strap on their holsters, check the ammo in their shotguns, put the shotguns in the holsters, put on their dusters and cowboy hats.

LYNETTE

What about me?

BRANDLE

What about you?

LYNETTE
Don't I get a gun?

BRANDLE
We only got two shotguns.

LYNETTE
Then I'll take a pistol.

Brandle looks at Cody. Cody hands her his Colt. Before she can grab it, Brandle does. He takes the bullets out, gives it to Lynette.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)
What good is a gun without bullets?

BRANDLE
It's good enough for you. I'm getting hungry. I want to get this over with and hit up a drive through.

CODY
You understand what you've got to do?

LYNETTE
Wait for you boys to get in, go to the slots, play a few pulls, find a manager, lift the keys and give them to Brandle.

CODY
Where's he gonna be?

LYNETTE
At the blackjack tables. Far end.

CODY
Good. Anybody goes down, they stay here. Got it?

LYNETTE
Got it.

CODY
The pickup has to be at the curb come hell or high water when we get out. No exceptions.

LYNETTE

Yes, sir.

Cody and Brandle turn to walk to the entrance.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)

Cody?

Cody turns she runs up to him, puts her arms around him, whispers in his ear.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)

I love it when you take charge like that. I'm gonna be right here for you when you get out. You just remember our plan.

She kisses him.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)

Good luck.

BRANDLE

What, no 'good luck' kiss for me?

Lynette gives him a peck on the cheek.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)

There. Now we're just one big happy family, aren't we?

EXT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- ENTRANCE -- DAY

Cody and Brandle walk toward the casino entrance.

BRANDLE

Feels good to be working together again, doesn't it?

CODY

Feels great.

BRANDLE

You know what to do, right?

CODY

Yeah, I know what to do.

BRANDLE
Before we go in, there's just one
thing I want to tell you.

CODY
What's that?

The automatic doors to the casino open. Brandle and Cody
stop at the threshold.

BRANDLE
If you and your old lady think for a
second of trying to take my share of
the money, I'll put a bullet in both
your heads.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- DAY

Cody and Brandle enter.

BRANDLE
I'm serious, little bro.

Cody puts a hundred dollar bill in Brandle's hand.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)
What's this?

CODY
It's your stake. I held some back.

BRANDLE
I don't need your money. I held
some back, too. Why are you holding
out on me, little bro?

CODY
If you don't need it, fine. They're'll
be plenty of time to argue later.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- CASHIER'S WINDOW -- DAY

Cody puts a hundred dollar bill on the counter in front of a
CASHIER, female, 40's, overweight. The cashier has She's
picture of her family on the name tag around her neck. A
SECOND CASHIER checks messages on her cell phone.

CASHIER
You want to break this, hon?

Cody nods. She makes change. Cody stares at the name tag.

CODY
That your name family?

CASHIER
Sure is. Helps me remember why I'm
working the graveyard shift in a
dump like this.

CODY
I guess everybody's got to earn a
buck any way they can.

Cody puts his money in his pocket, limps toward the video
poker machines. He adjusts the gun underneath his duster.
The cashier turns to the second cashier.

CASHIER
He sure was an odd one, wasn't he?

The second cashier doesn't look up from her phone. The
cashier picks up the receiver to a house phone.

CASHIER (CONT'D)
Hello? This is Estelle at the
cashier's window--

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- BLACKJACK TABLE -- DAY

A lone GAMBLER busts. He shakes his head, leaves the table,
while an attractive female DEALER rakes in his chips. Brandle
takes a seat at the table, tosses down a hundred, gets his
chips, leaves one for the dealer.

BRANDLE
How's business?

DRIVER
Dead. It's the end of the month.
Everyone's already gambled away what
they have--or don't have.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- SLOT MACHINES -- DAY

Lynette absently puts twenty bucks in a slot machine, looks around. A FEMALE MANAGER, large ring of keys on her belt, approaches.

FEMALE MANAGER
Can I help you find something, hon?

LYNETTE
I was looking for--a drink.

The female manager speaks into a mic.

FEMALE MANAGER
Can I get a waitress on the slots,
south end?
(to Lynette)
Someone will be right over to take
care of you.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- VIDEO POKER MACHINES -- DAY

Cody lets a cigarette burn in an ashtray, presses buttons on a video poker machine. He looks over to Brandle at the blackjack table. Brandle nods toward the cashier's window.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- CASHIER'S WINDOW -- DAY

In front of him, at the door to the cashiers' cage, a casino employee pushes a cash cart out of the back room. The employee is flanked by two managers.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- GAMING TABLES -- DAY

The employee switches full cash boxes for empty at the gaming tables.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- VIDEO POKER MACHINES -- DAY

Cody nods at Brandle.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- BLACKJACK TABLE -- DAY

Brandle points behind Cody.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- VIDEO POKER MACHINES -- DAY

Cody makes a gesture to Brandle. He doesn't understand. Brandle turns his attention back to his game. A tap on Cody's shoulder. He turns around. An OFF DUTY POLICE OFFICER and a MANAGER are behind him. The off duty cop rests a hand on his pistol.

OFF DUTY COP

Excuse me, sir. Could I ask you to
put our your cigarette and stand for
a moment.

CODY

The fuck?

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- SLOT MACHINES -- DAY

Lynette plays slots, a drink in her hand. She looks toward the video poker machines where Cody is being interrogated. There isn't a manager near her anywhere. She gets up from her seat without bothering to take a payout, walks toward Cody. She looks at Brandle, who waves her away.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- VIDEO POKER MACHINES -- DAY

Cody stands with his hands in the air. The manager looks on. The off duty police officer speaks calmly.

OFF DUTY COP

I'm here to remind you that bringing
a firearm into a gaming facility is
a federal offence.

Lynette, acting drunk, approaches the manager from behind. Cody tries to wave her away with his head, but she doesn't pay any attention. She bumps into the manager.

LYNETTE

Oh, 'scuse me, boys.

The manager turns to look at her.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)

Hey, don't I know you? Jim or James
or--

MANAGER

Jay.

LYNETTE

That's right. Jay. From Las Cruces.
Very nice to see you again. I'm'a
hit the ladies room. When I'm done,
maybe you'd like to pay me a visit
over at the slot machines.

Lynette walks away. The manager's keys are gone from his
belt.

CODY

Where were we?

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- CASHIER'S WINDOWS -- DAY

Lynette walks past the cashiers' windows, toward Brandle at
the blackjack tables.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- POKER ROOM -- DAY

The rancher folds, stands.

RANCHER

I gotta hit the head.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- BLACKJACK TABLES -- DAY

Lynette walks quickly toward Brandle, her head down. The
rancher adjusts his belt while he walks. Lynette runs into
the rancher before she can get to Brandle.

RANCHER

Well, well, well. If it isn't Lynette
Rensing.

LYNETTE

Roy.

RANCHER

I thought I told you I never wanted
to see you around here again.

LYNETTE

It's a free country.

RANCHER

Where's the jewelry you stole from me, Lynette?

LYNETTE

I didn't steal it. You gave it to me.

RANCHER

It was yours as long as you were living with me, but--

LYNETTE

It wasn't even worth that much, Roy. Most of it was costume stuff. I sold it to pay for the medical expenses. You remember those?

RANCHER

Yes, I do.

LYNETTE

Don't worry, Roy. You won't have to see the likes of me no more. This is my last day here.

RANCHER

You find yourself a new beau to foot the bill?

LYNETTE

Goodbye, Roy.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- VIDEO POKER MACHINES -- DAY

Cody, seeing the confrontation between the rancher and Lynette, takes a step away from the manager and cop. The cop pulls out his gun and sticks it in Cody's gut.

OFF DUTY COP

No sudden moves, you hear me? We're gonna take a walk out to the parking lot, where you'll be escorted to county jail.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- BLACKJACK TABLES -- DAY

Lynette approaches Brandle. The cash cart is only one table away.

LYNETTE
You winning big tonight, honey?

BRANDLE
My luck's gone south.

She gives him a big kiss, drops the keys on his lap.

LYNETTE
I'm going to hit the bed. Don't be too long now.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- CASHIER'S WINDOWS -- DAY

The cop and manager lead Cody past the cashiers' windows, toward the casino exit. Cody looks to Brandle at the blackjack table.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- BLACKJACK TABLE -- DAY

The casino employee with the cash cart swaps out the drawer at Brandle's table. Brandle holds up the cash cart keys, nods to Cody.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- CASHIER'S WINDOWS -- DAY

Cody pulls out his shotgun, turns on the cop in one fluid motion. He hits the cop across the face with the stock of the gun. The cop falls to the ground. The manager wrestles with Cody for control of the shotgun. The shotgun accidentally fires, blowing a hole in the cop's gut.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- RESTAURANT -- DAY

From behind a railing in an attached restaurant, A SECOND OFF-DUTY POLICE OFFICER stands and aims a gun at Cody.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- BLACKJACK TABLE -- DAY

Brandle stands, aims his pistol at the off duty police officer, shoots.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- RESTAURANT -- DAY

The off duty police officer puts a hand on his chest. Blood flows over it. He falls over the railing onto the floor.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- DAY

Gamblers turn to look at the sound of the shots.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- CASHIERS' WINDOWS

Cody wrestles the shotgun free from the manager, turns it on him. The manager runs away.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- DAY

Gamblers run for the front exit.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- CASHIERS' WINDOWS

Cody points his shotgun at the cashier with the picture of her family.

CASHIER

Please don't shoot me. Oh Lord,
please don't shoot.

CODY

Give me all the money you've got.
Now!

She pulls money from her drawer, puts it on the counter. Cody pushes the money into a garbage sack. He points his shotgun at the other cashier.

CODY (CONT'D)

You, too. All your money.

The second cashier puts her money on the counter. She reaches down further than the cash drawer.

CODY (CONT'D)

Keep your hands where I can see them!
Give me all the money you've got!

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- BLACKJACK TABLE -- DAY

Brandle holds a shotgun to the neck of the casino employee with the cash cart.

BRANDLE

Keep going. Trade all the boxes out, and don't even think of being a hero.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- CASHIERS' WINDOWS -- DAY

Cody pushes cash into the garbage sack. An alarm sounds. A metal barricade comes down hard on the counter, blocking access to the cashiers. Cody wrestles his shotgun out.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- BLACKJACK TABLE -- DAY

The casino employee switches out the last of the cash drawers, still with Brandle's shotgun on his neck.

BRANDLE

Is that all the drawers?

The casino employee nods.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)

Good. Now get the fuck out of here.

Brandle kicks the casino employee away from the cart. The employee runs with the rest of the gambler toward the front exit. Cody approaches.

CODY

You got it?

EXT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- DAY

Gamblers mill around the front entrance to the casino, block the street.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Lynette smokes a cigarette, listens to low country music on Cody's boom box.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- RESTAURANT -- DAY

The manager picks up the gun of the second off-duty police officer.

INT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- BACK ENTRANCE -- DAY

Cody and Brandle back out of the casino, guns drawn, pulling the cash cart. Cody holds a limp sack of money.

BRANDLE

How much you think you got at the windows?

CODY

Don't ask.

EXT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- BACK ENTRANCE -- DAY

Cody and Brandle exit the building, push the cash cart toward the curb.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Lynette sees Cody and Brandle at the curb, throws the pickup into reverse.

EXT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- PARKING LOT -- DAY

Cody's reverses into a parked car, sideswipes another parked car as it lurches toward the curb.

EXT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- BACK ENTRANCE -- DAY

Cody's pickup screeches to a halt in front of Cody and Brandle.

BRANDLE

Ready? On three. One, two--

A gunshot rings out. Cody and Brandle duck. At the doors to the casino, the manager holds a pistol, fires shots at Cody and Brandle. Brandle fires back.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)

Three.

Cody and Brandle heave the cart into the bed of Cody's pickup. Cody gets into the truck. Brandle gets into the bed of the truck.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Lynette at the wheel. Cody shuts his door.

CODY

Hit it!

EXT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- PARKING LOT -- DAY

Cody's pickup peels out away from the curb. Brandle, in the bed of the pickup, loses his footing. He trades gunshots with the manager.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Lynette drives wildly. Cody looks through his money sack.

LYNETTE

Which way?! Which way?!

CODY

Toward the barricade.

EXT. CLIFF CASTLE CASINO -- PARKING LOT -- DAY

Cody's pickup stops in front of the barricade. Cody gets out, opens the barricade. The pickup drives through. Cody shuts the gate, puts a new padlock on. The sound of sirens in the distance. Brandle tries keys in the lock boxes.

EXT. WILDERNESS -- DAY

Cody's pickup kicks up dust as it drives along a dirt road, then turns off the road.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Lynette drives. Cody counts money from the sack.

LYNETTE

How much you think we got in there?

CODY

Three, four thousand, tops.

LYNETTE
How much you think is in that cart?

EXT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Brandle tries keys in the lock boxes. A drop of blood falls on his hand. Then another. He puts a hand on his gut, takes it away: he's bleeding. He works faster, finds the right key, takes money out of a box and stuffs it into a garbage bag.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Lynette and Cody tossed around as they pass over rough terrain.

EXT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Brandle stuffs cash from the boxes into his garbage bag. The pickup goes over a bump, Brandle gets airborne for a second, then hits the bed hard. He loses grasp of a bunch of bills. They go flying out of the back of the cab.

INT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Cody looks in the side mirror. He sees dollar bills floating away behind them.

CODY
Stop the truck!

EXT. WILDERNESS -- DAY

The wheels on Cody's pickup lock up. The pickup slides out of control into a ditch. It is stuck with its rear wheels off the ground, spinning. Brandle crawls out of the bed of the truck. The overpass and the getaway car are within view.

EXT. CODY'S PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Brandle leans against the truck, a bloody hand on his gut. Lynette and Cody get out of the truck.

LYNETTE
Cody, Brandle's been shot!

CODY
The fuck?

BRANDLE
Don't just stand there, help me.

Cody reaches for Brandle's sack of money. Brandle pulls it away from him.

BRANDLE (CONT'D)
This stays with me.

Cody takes one of Brandle's arms, props him up.

CODY
Come on, Lynette. Are you gonna help or not?

LYNETTE
I thought you said if one of us goes down, the others go on without him.

CODY
Never mind what we said. We need to get Brandle to the car.

EXT. WILDERNESS -- DAY

Cody and Lynette hold Brandle up, try to walk with him. Brandle collapses. Cody holds an arm. Lynette lets him fall. In the distance, the sound of a helicopter.

CODY
C'mon, Brandle. It ain't much further to the car. Lynette, I need some help here.

LYNETTE
He can't make it, Cody.

CODY
Yes, he can. Just help me out.

BRANDLE
She's right, Cody. I'm not going to make it.

Cody reaches for the money sack still in Brandle's grasp. Brandle pulls it away.

CODY
Give me the money, Brandle.

BRANDLE
No. Take it from me.

Cody reaches again for the sack. Brandle draws his pistol, aims it at Cody.

CODY
Don't do this, Brandle.

BRANDLE
Man up, Cody. Take the money from me.

CODY
The car's right over there. I'll get you to a hospital.

BRANDLE
There's only one way out of this.

The helicopter sound gets closer.

LYNETTE
Take the money, Cody. Do it now.

Cody draws his pistol, aims it at Brandle.

CODY
Fine. If this is the way you want it.

BRANDLE
I want to see you shoot me, Cody. I want to see you do it.

CODY
Nobody needs to get shot here. Just hand over the money.

BRANDLE
I want to see you shoot your own brother, Cody. After everything he did for you. Practically raised you. Taught you everything you know about how to make a living.

CODY
You call this a living?

BRANDLE
Better than most.

CODY
Hand over the money. I'll take you
to a hospital.

LYNETTE
Cody, he said if anyone goes down,
they stay. Shoot him if he won't do
it. He's nothing but a snake in the
grass. He's going to get us all
caught.

Lynette reaches for the money sack. Brandle cocks his pistol.
Cody cocks his pistol.

BRANDLE
I went to prison because of you.
And you paid me back by not visiting
me a single time. You hate me, Cody.
Why should I believe you'll take me
to a hospital?

LYNETTE
Just shoot him already, Cody. I
can't stand this!

CODY
I'm gonna ask you one more time:
give me the money.

Cody's finger squeezes the trigger on his gun, slowly.

BRANDLE
I did everything I could for you.
And you still hate me.

Brandle lowers his hand with the gun. Closes his eyes.
Cody's pistol shakes. He's dangerously close to firing his
gun. Brandle's head falls to the side. Cody uncocks his
pistol. Lynette grabs the bag of cash.

LYNETTE
Is he dead?

Cody feels Brandle's neck for a plus.

CODY

Yeah.

Cody takes the keys to the Chrysler from Brandle's pocket.

LYNETTE

Let's get out of here before that
chopper gets any closer.

EXT. UNDERPASS -- DAY

Cody and Lynette scramble into the getaway Chrysler.

INT. CHRYSLER -- DAY

Cody looks out the windows for the helicopter: no sign.
Lynette looks through the money sacks.

LYNETTE

Oh, Cody. I can't believe it. I
think we're gonna make it!

EXT. WILDERNESS -- DAY

The Chrysler speeds through the wilderness, kicking up dust.

INT. CHRYSLER -- DAY

Cody drives. Lynette counts money.

LYNETTE

Where are you going, Cody?

CODY

I'm gonna enter the highway a little
further up, where they won't be
looking for us.

EXT. HIGHWAY -- DAY

Police cars block traffic, lights flashing. In the distance,
the Chrysler kicks up a dust cloud, a helicopter behind it.

INT. CHRYSLER -- DAY

Cody looks out all the windows, trying to see where the helicopter is. Lynette finishes counting money.

LYNETTE

Cody, it's mostly small bills in here.

EXT. HIGHWAY -- DAY

The Chrysler enters the highway, stops. In front of it, a police blockade. Two of the cops, Hughes and Ricks from the Wal-Mart, are in position behind their open car doors, guns drawn. Behind the Chrysler, the helicopter.

INT. CHRYSLER -- DAY

Cody with his hands on the steering wheel. Lynette turns to him.

LYNETTE

What are you doing, Cody?

CODY

Getting ready to make a run for it.

LYNETTE

Cody, there's a helicopter behind us. We can't outrun it.

CODY

What else do you suggest we do?

LYNETTE

I don't know.

CODY

You don't want to stay here, and I ain't goin' to jail for the rest of my life.

EXT. HIGHWAY -- DAY

One of the cops speaks into a PA.

COP
Cut the engine and put your hands
out where we can see them.

INT. CHRYSLER -- DAY

Cody revvs the engine. Lynette puts her arms around him.
Cody pulls out his gun.

CODY
You better put your head down.

EXT. HIGHWAY -- DAY

Cody's Chrysler peels out, smoke pours from the wheels, speeds
toward the police cars.

INT. CHRYSLER -- DAY

Cody, one hand on the wheel, one hand out the window with a
pistol, takes aim at the cops. Lynette holds herself in a
fetal position in the front seat.

EXT. HIGHWAY -- DAY

Cody and the cops trade fire. A bullet shatters the
Chrysler's windshield, pops one of the tires. The Chrysler
veers off the highway, crashes. The horn blares.

INT. CHRYSLER -- DAY

Cody slumped over the wheel, Colt still in his hand. Lynette
sits up, pulls him off the wheel. The horn stops blaring.
Cody bleeds profusely from his chest.

EXT. HIGHWAY -- DAY

A cop speaks into the PA.

COP
Put your hands out of the car where
we can see them.

INT. CHRYSLER -- DAY

Lynette holds Cody. He bleeds from his mouth and has a
faraway look in his eye, but he's still breathing.

LYNETTE
Cody? Cody? Are you still alive?
Oh, god, you can't leave me like
this, Cody. Say something. Say you
love me. Can you say it, Cody?

EXT. HIGHWAY -- DAY

The cops approach the Chrysler with their guns drawn.

INT. CHRYSLER -- DAY

Lynette shakes Cody's head.

LYNETTE
Oh, just say you love me, Cody.
You're the only man who ever truly
loved me, Cody, and I know that. I
don't need any money, Cody. I just
need you.

She takes the sack of money and empties it out the window.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)
See, Cody? I don't need any money
at all.

Cody tries to say something. Lynette leans in to hear.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)
What's that, Cody? I can't hear.
Say it again.

Cody tries to speak but can't. His eyes close. His head
slumps to the side. Lynette gets a wild look in her eyes.
She takes his gun.

EXT. HIGHWAY -- DAY

The cops are within a few feet of the Chrysler. The passenger
door flies open. Lynette steps out with Cody's Colt. She
aims it at the cops. She squeezes the trigger, but the Colt
only makes an empty click. The cops fire their weapons at
Lynette. She falls to the ground.

EXT. HIGHWAY -- DAY

In the foreground, a sign: COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA. EST. 1879, ELEVATION 3314. Behind the sign, the two cops step cautiously toward Lynette, their guns still drawn. The helicopter lands, sending dollar bills swirling into the air. Sirens wail in the distance.

FADE OUT: