

Burning Out - Pilot

Written by

James J. Cartwright

## TEASER

### **EXT. TEXAS MOTORPLEX - DAY**

It's race night in Texas. Ticket holders crowd into the stadium as they pass by the many NHRA banners (National Hot Rod Association). They grip their beers and handle their salty snacks as they cheer from their bleacher seats.

Blue. Amber. Green!

Two cars take off from the starting line and race down the quarter mile all-concrete drag way. The crowd erupts as the winner crosses the finish a full car length ahead of its competitor.

The big screen flashes "NHRA PRO STOCK SEMI-FINALS"

The next two race cars are pushed by their crews to the starting line. The two cars are a Red and a White Pro Stock racer.

Pushing from the driver side door of the Red Pro Stock, CAP, (late 20's), racing suit, with dark shoulder length hair held back by a weathered baseball hat. He's all smiles as he executes orders to his crew.

### **INT. RED PRO STOCK CAR - CONTINUOUS**

Cap slides through the driver side window. A crew mate hands Cap the steering wheel and he fixes it into place. Cap hands over his ball cap to another crew and slides on his race helmet.

Cap reaches into his suits chest pocket and produces a photograph; Cap is in his early teens with his arm around an older man, both with big smiles. The older man wears oil stained overalls with a rag hanging out of his pocket; a grease monkey. Cap, similar, is covered with grease smudges. They stand before an auto shop with a sign that reads Johnnie's. The bottom left corner has scribbled "Cap and Uncle Johnnie."

As a superstitious driver, Cap wedges the photo next to the odometer.

### **EXT. TEXAS MOTORPLEX - DAY**

The Racers perform a burnout near the starting line to warm their tires followed by their crew carefully navigating the vehicles to the very edge of the starting line.

With both vehicles in place the blue lights on the Christmas Tree shine bright. Three amber lights flash next followed by the green.

The cars leave the starting line clean and barrel down the race way. Fans jump to their feet and cheer.

The white pro stock inches ahead but only for a brief second and the red pro stock leaps a head a tire length. In the blink of an eye the red racer crosses the finish line ahead of white.

**INT. TEXAS MOTORPLEX - GARAGE**

The Red pro stock pulls into its garage stall and powers down.

The crew helps Cap out of the car as fans swarm. A REPORTER steps front holding out his phone to record.

REPORTER

Unbelievable, how does it feel to make it to tomorrow's NHRA Pro Stock finals....

(reporter looks at his notes)  
Calvin Patrick Sullivan.

CAP

No one calls me Calvin, it's Cap. And it feels something awesome, small town racer gets his big shot finally. You got to love that.

**INT. TEXAS MOTORPLEX - GARGAGE - NIGHT**

The crowd has fizzled out and moon shows in the night sky. Cap waves to the last fan as they step out from the garage.

Cap steps over to his racer and pops the hood to presumable get back to work a tune for tomorrow.

The steel shudder door the garage CLANGS as it rolls shut. This startles Cap as he cocks his head around the hood.

His pit crew of six lurk and look none too happy in Caps Direction.

From behind the crew steps front and center TOMMY (mid 20's), tall, dark slicked haired. He is stylishly dressed and has a modern cowboy look to him. Tommy runs his hand over the stock car as he approaches Cap.

TOMMY

Congrats Cap, you really did it.

CAP

Tommy, thought I smelled heavy cologne and desperation down here at the strip.

TOMMY

Low hanging fruit as always with you. And I'm not feeling that desperate today despite the turn of events.

CAP

I got us covered, we can make it all back tomorrow. The semi-finals was the true test, Johnson should have advanced, he was favored, but he slipped up and gave me a chance when he kept it running hard in third gear too long. It was mine for the taking.

TOMMY

You are a bag of bolts, as in, dumb as a. When we fix a race there's only one result the boss is interested in.

CAP

But look at the big picture. If we take the title that opens up guaranteed invites to the other championships but the sponsorships will stack up and that can go back into supporting the car. And the cash prize is all goes to the boss for sure when I cross that finish line.

TOMMY

But that's not the deal. I think it's time to BREAK even.

Tommy gestures to the biggest of the pit crew. This MUSCULAR GOON lifts the large pipe handle off of a rolling car jack.

The other pit crew members rush Cap and hold him down over the side of the car. Cap struggles to get loose but can't. The Muscular Goon swings the pipe at Cap.

Cap has nowhere to move and the pipe collides with Cap's left arm. The pit crew hold their position as the goon takes another hefty whack at the arm.

Cap plummets to the ground. The goon drops the pipe and it PINGS against the garage floor.

Cap howls out in pain as the pipe rolls away. You can see the broken bone breaking through the skin.

Cap winces in pain, his back on the floor, and unable to move his left arm.

The pit crew exits to the shadows. Tommy kneels besides Cap.

TOMMY

That was only for your  
disobedience for winning the race.  
You live because the boss still  
expects to collect back his money.

Tommy reaches into Caps pocket and finds his cell phone. Tommy dials an emergency number and leaves it on the floor by Cap's anguished face.

OPERTAOR

911, What's your emergency?

Tommy leaves. Cap is alone.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

SUPER IMPOSE: 6 months later.

**EXT. JUNKYARD - NIGHT**

Rows and rows of junked and rusted cars span across the length of three football fields. A crescent moon shines little light on the rust buckets. After a moment, the flickering of two flashlight beams peak over a row of cars.

JAKE

Yeah, I found one! Let's get out here.

JAKE (18) slick to the side blond hair, boyish good looks, and jean jacket, stands up after leaning under the hood of one of the junkyard cars.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Shinny, quit messing around.

Jake walks over to another young guy SHINNY (17) this is his younger brother. He has curly chestnut hair, skinny build, white tee, a bit of a greaser. He twirls his lit flashlight around like a Star Wars light-sabre and pretends to take slashes at Jake.

SHINNY

Your skills are no match for my skills. They are superior. KADOOSH. I slice you into... two.

Shinny makes another swipe at Jake. Jake dislikes this.

JAKE

Stop it.

SHINNY

Make me.

Jake slaps the flashlight out of Shinny's hand. Shinny's mouth drops with pure shock. He then cracks a smile and wrestles Jake to ground. The two go at it.

JAKE

You dumb idiot.

Their wrestling abruptly stops upon hearing a loud SHOTGUN BLAST. They look from their prone wrestling position to see near rabid junkyard dogs barreling down towards them.

JAKE (CONT'D)

You dumb idiot.

SHINNY

Okay, now I'm ready to go.

Shinny takes off sprinting as Jake runs over to grab his shoulder bag full of auto parts.

SHINNY (CONT'D)

Run, Jake! Run!

Jake catches up just behind Shinny. As Jake runs his bag bounces loudly at his side with the CLANKING of metal parts.

JAKE

Please, don't yell my name out loud when we're lifting parts illegally.

SHINNY

Alright, I hear ya, next time code names. I'll be Black Hawk and you'll be Blonde Llama.

JAKE

Blonde Llama?!

Shinny reaches the chain fence first and scales over it. The razor wire on top is covered with a carpeted floor mat allowing Shinny to quickly roll over the top.

SHINNY

I wouldn't mess with a Llama.

Jake tosses his bag over the fence to Shinny. Jake scales the fence just in time as the first junkyard dog nips at his ankles.

Jake crashes to the other side of the fence. Shinny grabs for Jake's arm and pulls Jake to his feet.

JAKE

I got to work on those landings.

Jake stumbles over to his motorcycle in the bushes just where he left it before the heist.

SHINNY

Later doggies!

Jake straps on his helmet and then starts the bike. Shinny hops on back and straps into his helmet as well.

The bike lurches forward and Shinny wraps his arms around Jake for support. Shinny shouts to the wind.

SHINNY (CONT'D)  
Woooo Hooo! Yeah Brother!

The bike speeds off down the dirt road leaving the junkyard and dogs in the dust. The bike finally takes a sharp turn onto the highway. As the boys complete their turn they pass an ancient weathered billboard that reads "Welcome to Plainview, Texas."

**EXT. BUS STATION - NIGHT**

A bus arrives and riders unload. Cap steps off of the bus and reaches the ATTENDANT unloading the undercarriage. We see that Cap has a black strapped medical brace peaking out from the sleeve of his left arm down to the elbow.

Cap points to his bag and shows his ticket. The Attendant lifts the bag for Cap, he recognizes the oil company badge on the duffle. He's overly friendly.

ATTENDANT  
Back from the oil fields, heh?  
Hear they can be hellish. You  
visiting very long?

CAP  
Nah, just here to gather some  
pieces and then I'm headed out.

Cap gathers his duffle bag. He slings it over his good shoulder. He walks off down the town road.

**EXT. JAKE AND SHINNY'S GARAGE - NIGHT**

Next to a small ranch house is an old wooden two door garage. It's late at night but with the lights on and moving shadows it seems someone is busy slaving away inside. Parked by the side door is Jake's motorcycle.

**INT. JAKE AND SHINNY'S GARAGE - NIGHT**

Shinny is face deep into the car engine of an '89 Ford Mustang. The Mustang looks like a piece of junk: the doors don't match the body color, the hood has a huge rust mark, the bumper is dented, and it looks like it has been washed since '89.

SHINNY  
Yes, the part fits, it's a match!



Jake lifts two quarts of oil and a funnel from the work bench. He opens up a valve, works the funnel, and starts with the oil. Jake anxiously can't wait to finish the pour.

JAKE

You think she'll start?

SHINNY

I don't see why not, the old Hunk was tuned up good before those old parts crapped out, it shall be resurrected at last.

Jake caps off the oil. His next move is to jump into the driver seat. Jake grabs the keys from visor and pops them into the ignition. Shinny give's Jake a thumbs up.

JAKE

I hope you're listening up there Grandpa.

Jake turns the ignition. Not a sound. Jake slams a punch into the steering wheel and the horn gives a quick beep. Shinny looks at the engine perplexed and scratches his head.

SHINNY

Well, crap.

JAKE

Not a sound, it's not sparking.

SHINNY

Oh yeah, the spark plugs!

Shinny happily grabs the set of spark plugs from the work bench drawer and begins installing them back into the engine.

JAKE

Shinny, You're duller the a bag of bolts.

SHINNY

They were dirty as hell, I was cleaning them up before.

JAKE

What I'm saying here is: if you and a bag of bolts were both applying to the same school, the bag of bolts would get a full ride scholarship.

SHINNY

Yeah, you're right.

(MORE)

SHINNY (CONT'D)  
I'd blow it with the admission  
essay.

Shinny tightens the last spark plug, then waves his wrench.

SHINNY (CONT'D)  
Alright Jake, make her sing.

Jake takes a deep breath and then turns the key. The Mustang  
ROARS to life. The engine starts to PURR. Jake lets out his own  
howl as the boys celebrate.

JAKE  
Wooooooot!

SHINNY  
Rev it up!

Jake hits the gas and The Hunk growls. The boys are damn  
excited until suddenly...

A loud POUNDING sends shock waves through the garage door  
followed by the voice of MAMA KELLY.

MAMA KELLY  
Shut it down! I got work tomorrow,  
keep me up with your car  
shenanigans.

SHINNY & JAKE  
Sorry, Ma!

Jake shuts down the engine. Shinny dances about as he quietly  
shuts the hood of the mustang.

SHINNY  
We got a working car. And I bet  
The Hunk of junk can race.

JAKE  
I bet The Hunk can too. That's  
everything we need but the  
nitrous. We get the nitrous, test  
out the hook ups, and we're good.

SHINNY  
But still The Hunk is road worthy  
now.

JAKE  
We need nitrous to take down the  
big racers, but the nitrous is  
gonna cost us.

(MORE)

JAKE (CONT'D)

Where can we get that kind of cheddar?

SHINNY

Time to go fishing.

Shinny smiles and pantomimes a fishing pole. He launches the lure and then starts reeling in.

JAKE

Okay, time to go fishing.

**EXT. JOHNNIE'S GARAGE - NIGHT**

Cap stands outside of Johnnie's Garage (the same one from his photograph). Inside the lights are still on.

After a moment of hesitation, Cap makes a step towards the garage.

**INT. JOHNNIE'S GARAGE - NIGHT**

Johnnie's Garage is a functioning auto repair shop. Two hydraulic lifts, broken down vehicles, and tool chests of every kind. A small reception and waiting area occupy the front entrance.

Behind the glass case reception stands DANI (18) brunette, southern fashionable, does not look like she fits in the auto mechanic world. She's locking up the register.

Through the front door steps Cap. Dani's eyes instantly meet his.

DANI

Cappy!

She slides over the reception desk and jumps towards her brother Cap. Cap drops his bag and catches her diving hug.

CAP

Good to see you, Dani.

DANI

You should have called you jerk and let us know you were coming back.

CAP

I meant too.

From out of a back room steps another figure in grease stained overalls. MEL (late 20's), with hair tied back in a ponytail and smudges on her cheeks, uses a shop rag to wipe off her hands free of crud as she looks up to see what all of the commotion is at reception.

Cap smiles at her.

CAP (CONT'D)

Hey, sis.

Mel finishes polishing off her hands with the rag then checks her nails. She walks over to Cap and pauses. After a beat she gives him a big hug and Cap hugs back.

As they push a part, Mel shakes her head once and then winds up. With strong right hook she lays out her brother flat on his back.

MEL

Welcome back, Cap.

Cap aches and moans on the auto shop floor reaching for his recently tenderized eye. Mel shakes her wrist in pain.

MEL

Oww, that stung a bit.

CAP

You're telling me.

Dani, the innocent bystander to all this, brings the commentary.

DANI

We all knew that was coming.

MEL

No one's heard from you. Then you decide just to waltz back in here as if it's business as usual.

CAP

Yep, I definitely deserved all that.

Mel reaches out her good hand to Cap. Cap grabs for it and Mel helps him to his feet.

MEL

Is that all you got?

CAP

It's been a pleasure catching up. I guess I'll be on my way.

Mel rolls her eyes. She kindly drags him back before he gets too far away.

MEL

Shut up. We still love you, dummy.  
Were you really planning on  
staying here?

Cap doesn't look too pleased with Mel despite her softened tone. The tension is thick in the air. But luckily Dani is on Cap's team as she begins to jump up and down. She tosses her arms around Cap.

DANI

Cappy's back! We're going to be  
one big happy family again under  
one roof.

Cap shoots Mel a garish grin as if to say "nothing you can do now." Dani grabs him by the arm and drags Cap to the exit. In her bubbly way she brings Cap up to speed.

DANI (CONT'D)

Can't believe you're back! We kept  
your room the same except for a  
couple yoga mats and boxes that we  
piled up.

Cap tosses his duffel over his shoulder and follows Dani out the door. Mel lets out a gruff and starts putting tools away.

MEL

You got a lot of explaining to do!

Cap nods and then exits behind Dani.

#### **EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT**

Jake drives The Hunk down the highway. Not many buildings around, just the occasional industrial park.

#### **INT. THE HUNK - CONTINUOUS**

Jake drives and Shinny rides shotgun. Shinny is fired up as he rotates searching and scanning the road from every window.

JAKE

What are we even looking for at  
this point? We're just burning up  
gas. Let's go home.

SHINNY

Fishing takes patients, bro.

Shinny sticks his head out the window. He closes his eyes as he takes a whiff of the night air.

SHINNY (CONT'D)  
Oh there's a sucker out there I  
can smell it.

JAKE  
Get back in here.

Shinny slides back into his seat.

JAKE (CONT'D)  
Let's just take what little money  
we have and hold on to it.

Shinny happily explodes as he points out the window. He slaps Jake on the shoulder repeatedly.

SHINNY  
One-o'clock, gas station, pull  
over.

JAKE  
What?

SHINNY  
Take a look.

#### **JAKE'S POV**

A brand new, bright yellow Camaro SS sits in front of the gas station pump.

#### **BACK TO SCENE**

SHINNY  
A Camaro SS, can we take that in a  
drag?

JAKE  
I don't know. We're talking V-8.  
It'll probably out perform us off  
the line but we got top speed in a  
quarter mile.

SHINNY  
That's what I like to hear, pull  
her around.

JAKE  
I don't need gas though, that'll  
make her heavy.

SHINNY

Then fake it. Stand back and I'll  
take care of the rest.

The car U-turns back to the gas pumps.

**EXT. JOHNNIE'S GARAGE - NIGHT**

The lights shut down inside Johnnie's Garage. A split second later, Mel is outside locking the door.

She crosses the small parking lot. The lot is loaded with old cars on blocks and fender bent vehicles. It doesn't take her long to reach the yard and drive way of the house next door. A modest two story home in need of a paint job. Lights are still on.

**INT. SULLIVAN HOUSE - NIGHT**

Cap leans against a kitchen table and holds a bag of frozen peas to his swollen cheek. Mel enters through the outside door.

CAP

I'll have dinner ready in a  
second, I'm just thawing out these  
frozen peas first.

MEL

I'd like to see you make dinner.

She tosses her keys on to a pile of coupon clippings and then leans back on the counter.

MEL (CONT'D)

Or do anything for that matter.  
Where the hell have you been?

CAP

I've been working, you know that.  
Oil platform. You cashed the  
checks I sent.

Mel reaches into the pile of mail on the counter. She finds a stack of letters and drops it on the kitchen table.

MEL

Yeah those checks stopped coming  
and now we got these: unemployment  
offices, and hospital bills.

Cap puts down the peas and flips through the letters. Mel notices the arm brace.

MEL (CONT'D)

Something happened out there and you don't pick up a damn phone to call your family?

CAP

I was working the platform in the middle of the gulf.

MEL

Come on.

CAP

I'm fine.

MEL

Where have you been?

Cap can't answer that question. He crosses back to the pile of bills. Cap looks down at the bills; they read "Final Notice", "Mortgage".

CAP

Does it matter?

MEL

We don't care about the money, we care about you.

CAP

Bullshit, you don't care about the money! My left cheek says otherwise.

MEL

Yeah that's right you screwed us good. We are suppose to be partners in this shop, it's what Johnnie left us. And our best and only other mechanic runs off. But we've gotten by without you, by working hard. Don't you pity party here in this kitchen because you ran away.

CAP

I had to get away. We're selling the garage, cut our losses, take what we can. It's the only way out of here.

MEL

You don't get to make that decision anymore.

(MORE)



MEL (CONT'D)  
 We don't sell, we keep the family  
 together like Johnnie wanted.

Mel crosses the refrigerator and pulls from the freezer a bag of frozen green beans. She hands it Cap switching it for the green peas.

MEL (CONT'D)  
 Stubborn son of a bitch as always.  
 By the way, your old room has been  
 officially seized for storage.  
 You're on the couch for now.

CAP  
 You know that this couch is older  
 than both of us.

**INT. SULLIVAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Cap falls back on to a couch pullout bed, and instantly groans as old springs squeak.

Dani comes trotting through the living room. Dani has been transformed by make up, a stylish top, and a fancy purse. It's clear she's headed out for the night.

DANI  
 Uh oh, you're sleeping on the  
 backbreaker.

CAP  
 Where are you going dressed like  
 that?

DANI  
 Compared to the other girls around  
 this town this is very tame. I'm  
 going to the movies with Travis.

CAP  
 There's a Travis now?

DANI  
 Is it so hard to believe that I'm  
 going out on a date.  
 (to Mel)  
 This guy?

MEL  
 He's been gone. You've grown up a  
 bit.

Dani exits the front door Cap follows.

**EXT. SULLIVAN HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

Travis (18), the young man in question, waits at the end of the drive way on his foreign made motorcycle. He's got wavy brown hair and boyish good looks. He looks to the porch.

Dani steps out followed by Cap.

DANI  
Night, I'll try not to wake you  
when I'm back.

CAP  
And what time will that be?

Dani lightly makes her way down the porch steps while Cap pauses to get a look at Travis. Cap is not pleased.

CAP (CONT'D)  
Oh no, you're not getting on that  
motorcycle.

DANI  
Yes I am, I ride all the time.

Travis waves to Cap.

TRAVIS  
Evening!

CAP  
Uh, Hi?

TRAVIS  
(to Dani)  
Who's that guy?

DANI  
That's Cappy.

TRAVIS  
Oh, okay.

She walks up and gives Travis a peck on the cheek. Travis reaches for his phone.

CAP  
Hey, You're not getting on that  
bike without wearing a helmet.

DANI  
Well, duh.

She pulls from the bike's saddle bag a helmet and straps it on.

Travis discreetly types text into his cell phone.

Dani hops onto the back of the bike and locks her arms around Travis.

DANI (CONT'D)  
Night, Cappy!

Travis finishes his text: "You're not going believe who's back in town: Cap." He hits send then places the phone in his pocket.

Travis fires up the bike and the two ride away.

**INT. CASINO OFFICE - NIGHT**

The office is dimly lit and smoky. Southwest artifacts litter the walls and shelves along with casino paraphernalia. A faded framed photograph shows picture of wheel chair bound older gentlemen and young lady before a grand casino.

Posted up against a wall is Tommy. He examines a message on his phone, the sender reads: Travis. As Tommy reads the text a devilish smile crosses his face.

TOMMY  
Cap Sullivan has turned up  
finally, Mrs. Stone.

Tommy speaks to a woman leaning back in her chair behind the office desk. MRS. STONE, she's intimidating. Her fancy suit and scary demeanor screams that she's in charge. She puffs her cigar then smoke billows from her lungs.

MRS. STONE  
Worms will try their best to hide  
in the dirt, but the storms always  
come to drown them out.

She puts down his cigar and leans in.

MRS. STONE  
It's time to collect.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO**EXT. GAS STATION - NIGHT**

Jake pulls The Hunk up to the gas pump adjacent to the yellow Camaro. Jake steps out of the vehicle. His pantomimes are bad but his pretending to fill up seems to go unnoticed.

Two Texas grown Frat boys exit the convenience store. Both are wearing pearl snap button shirts and tight sandblasted jeans. The HANDSOME ONE carries a six pack of Lone Star beer and the FAT ONE has a bag of Doritos tucked under his arm.

Shinny crosses over to Jake and gives him a quick pat on the back. Shinny whispers to Jake:

SHINNY

Rich kids.

The Handsome One pulls out his keys and walks to the driver side of the Camaro as Shinny walks up.

SHINNY (CONT'D)

Is this your car?

The Handsome One, whom is much taller and built, is a moment away from slugging Shinny.

HANDSOME ONE

Who's asking?

SHINNY

I am friend. Camaro sports series right? Beautiful automotive vehicle. What year we talking here?

HANDSOME ONE

2020.

SHINNY

Look at that! One fine piece of machinery.

FAT ONE

Move it shit-bag.

SHINNY

I love that you went with the electric yellow, smart choice.

HANDSOME ONE

They had to ship it in, stuck to my guns on the color.

SHINNY

Damn straight. How fast can that thing go? You ever open it up? You got the poise of a good driver.

HANDSOME ONE

0 to 60 in 3.9 seconds. I topped it off at around 180.

Shinny claps his hands and jumps in the air in excitement.

SHINNY

Damn, I love me a fast car. I would love to see that vehicle open up. Hell I'd pay to see that thing take off.

FAT ONE

Yeah? You can feel free to pay me, and you can watch all you want.

SHINNY

Wish I could, I can't just give you cold hard cash.

Shinny snaps his fingers just as if a light bulb went off in his head.

SHINNY (CONT'D)

Hey, why don't you take a shot at my brothers piece of junk. He'd drag you for fun.

The Frat boys look over at The Hunk. Jake chews up the scenery by squeegeeing the front window. Filth water rushes right down the windshield.

The frat boys get wicked grins across their faces.

FAT ONE

Fifty bucks we'll drag your ass.

SHINNY

Okay, sure, a friendly wager.

HANDSOME ONE

I'll take that action, but all I got is hundreds.

Handsome One high fives the Fat One in a self-congratulating celebration only the truly douchey could appreciate. Shinny acts apprehensive.

SHINNY

I don't know, let me check with my brother.

Shinny trots over to windshield wiping Jake. He leans over to Jake.

SHINNY (CONT'D)

Hook line.

Shinny waves to the guys.

SHINNY (CONT'D)

You're on, follow us.

**INT. SULLIVAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

With the windows open the sounds of the Texas summer night creep over the dark living room. Cap stares at the ceiling with his back on the couch pull-out bed.

Cap kicks out a leg from under the sheet, followed by a couple twists and turns. Cap hits an exposed spring, shouts, and immediately rolls off the side. He fusses to remove the sheets from himself and chucks them back onto the bed.

CAP

God damn couch.

Cap sits at the side of the bed. This is the first time we see Cap with out the brace on his left arm, his tricep has a gnarly surgical scar tracing the length of it.

He stands up. He latches on his arm brace, steps into his jeans, and quickly slides boots onto his feet. He heads out the door.

**INT. SULLIVAN HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT**

Cap pours a glass of water. He notices the bills on the table and pokes through them. Pass the mortgage bill is a large envelope. It's marked Dallas School of Art and Design and addressed to Mel Sullivan. He looks inside, she's been accepted for the fall semester.

**EXT. JOHNNIE'S GARAGE - NIGHT**

Cap walks along side the building at night, the security light shines on the side wall. A mural of southwestern art and beautiful florals crawls along the walls. It's signed by Mel. Cap puts a hand to the wall and admires it seeing it for the first time.

Cap steps up to the entrance. Cap checks over his shoulder quickly then steps over the right side of the door. He reaches towards an old electrical outlet box and stuffs his hand inside. He finds the lockout key he was looking for and opens up the garage's front door.

**INT. JOHNNIE'S GARAGE - CONTINUOUS**

With the flick of a light switch the fluorescent lights blink and then hum to life. Cap strolls off into the garage corner. He knows exactly where he's going.

In the corner are a couple of covered vehicles. The one Cap approaches has a good layer of dust covering it. Cap tilts his head for a second, he knows this is the one. He reaches for the edge of the dust cover and rips it straight back (much like one would for the tablecloth trick).

Cap's eyes light up as if he was seeing her for the first time: a midnight matte-black 1969 Chevy Nova.

The car nearly glows as Cap slides his hand down across the body of the Nova. Cap talks directly to the car.

CAP  
Hello, Gracie.

Cap heads to the driver side, reaches in, and then pops the hood.

CAP (CONT'D)  
Where did we leave off?

Cap gets to working.

**EXT. INDUSTRIAL PARK - NIGHT**

A long alley connects the back sides of two industrial complexes. A few rows of loading docks service the multiple companies that work within the industrial complex.

From around the corner sounds of CAR ENGINES followed by the two vehicles The Hunk and the Camaro SS. The vehicles point down the alley and stop. The four gentlemen exit their vehicles. Shiny rushes over to the frat boys.

SHINNY

Straight, wide, no cracks,  
pavement top, very suitable  
conditions. Probably get a quarter  
mile going to that cross walk.

FAT ONE

Screw that, end of the loading  
dock is fine.

HANDSOME ONE

Yeah corner of the loading dock.

Handsome One extends his hand to shake. Shinny frowns and looks to Jake as he shakes the Handsome One's hand.

FAT ONE

Burn one, then line up on my mark.  
Then I'll head down to the finish  
and go on my signal when I say  
it's all clear.

Jake steps back into the car as Shinny rushes over to the driver side window and pokes his head in.

SHINNY

That drags about an eighth of a  
mile.

JAKE

I see that.

SHINNY

If he takes off, are you going to  
be able to catch?

JAKE

I know what I got to do. I'm going  
to make The Hunk hook.

SHINNY

It's tuned. It gonna hook.

Shinny grasps Jake's hand to wish him good luck then steps back. Both the Camaro and The Hunk turn their wheels and burn out.

The cars lurch forward to finish the burnout. The smoke clears and the cars roll back to their starting position. Shinny and the Fat One position the cars to the agreed starting line. After the cars are set, the Fat One treads down to the end of the dock.



The Fat One gets into position. He checks down the road and the coast is clear. He points to the Camaro and the Handsome One gives a thumbs up. The Fat One then points to Jake, in which he gives a thumbs up as well.

The Fat One looks over his shoulder one more time and raises his arm. The Camaro revs his engine and Jake rebuttals back firing his engines. The Fat One maintains his hand high then suddenly drops it to side.

The cars launch as the drivers hit the accelerators. The Hunk hooks well and matches the acceleration of the Camaro. The Camaro shifts quickly into fourth slowing up his RPM's. Camaro gains a slight lead, but by the time Jake shifts The Hunk to fourth gear he commands forward a head of the Camaro.

The cars scream by the end of the dock with The Hunk a full car length ahead of the Camaro.

The cars circle back to the starting line where Shinny is jumping up a down wildly. Jake exits the car and leans up against the driver side door trying to look cool.

The Fat One comes running back to the start. The Handsome One stomps over from his defeated Camaro.

HANDSOME ONE

What the hell you packing under that hood?

JAKE

Big block Chevy.

The Fat One, out of breath, comes stumbling up shaking a fist.

FAT ONE

I saw that. You scammed us!

SHINNY

No, but you had fun didn't you? Looks like the first time you broke the speed limit in that thing.

The Fat One pounds a fist into his hand but does not act on his aggression.

JAKE

That model there can go top speed 184. No doubt you got a V-8. You would of had me if you didn't shift so fast out of third there. Who knows what would have happened if the length was quarter mile.

This fires up the Handsome One. He looks over to the Fat One and they both nod at each other.

HANDSOME ONE  
Double or nothing.

Shinny looks to Jake, Jake smirks.

CUT TO:

**INT. AUTOMOTIVE RACING WHOLESALE - DAY**

A CLERK behind the counter reads a newspaper. A loud SMACK hits the counter and the Clerk looks from behind the paper. It's Shinny and his hand sits on top a small pile of hundred dollar bills.

SHINNY  
May I please purchase some of your  
finest tanks of nitrous.

**INT. JOHNNIE'S GARAGE - DAY**

Sunlight has broken through the garage windows and the angled streams of light bounce off the automobiles. From under Gracie there is the sound of a ratchet wrench cranking away.

Mel enters the front door, keys in hand. She's very suspicious of the shops lights being left on overnight. She hears the ratchet wrench and walks over to Gracie. Mel sees Caps feet hanging out from underneath the car as he works from his back.

MEL  
I'm going to charge you with  
breaking and entering into my  
place of business. Usually the  
criminals know better than to  
stick around at the scene of the  
crime.

CAP  
The real crime is leaving the  
lockout key where we've always  
left it.

Cap slides out from underneath the car. Once he's to his feet he starts wiping off his greasy hands with a rag.

CAP (CONT'D)  
I wasn't tired.

MEL

Or you couldn't sleep?

Cap shrugs. Mel peeks under the hood of the car then looks at Cap.

MEL (CONT'D)

How's old 'Grace Lighting?'

CAP

(correcting)

Gracie...

Cap screws on an oil cap to the engine block.

CAP (CONT'D)

Giving her a tune up, flushing out the fuel injector, oil change, otherwise she's still in great form. Thanks for not pawning her.

MEL

Was that an option? Damn thing is taking up space. You're lucky Dani still thinks fondly of you enough to stop me if I tried. God knows we could use the money. We'll put on a pot of coffee, we got some oil changes coming in.

She tosses a rag at him. Cap catches it and cocks his head to the side.

CAP

What you getting at here?

MEL

You want to keep that car in here? You got some room and board fees to catch up on. That is if you still no your way around the shop.

CAP

I know this place better than anyone.

MEL

Prove it. Let's show them how the garage can run with two on duty.

Cap slings the rag over his shoulder and shakes his head in disbelief.

**EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY**

A bell rings and students exit from the high school and into the parking lot.

Jake exits the school with his head down looking at his phone.

JAKE  
Damn it, Shinny. Where are you?

Jake with head down still enters into the parking lot.

SHINNY (O.S.)  
Hey, bro!

Jake pops his head up to see Shinny smiling. Shinny sits on the closed rear trunk of The Hunk.

JAKE  
I was told you cut chem today.

SHINNY  
Check it out!

Shinny hops off of the car and lifts open the trunk. Inside are four brand new bottles of nitrous oxide.

Jake flips out and runs over to the car. He immediately shuts the trunk.

JAKE  
Shinny you idiot, what do you think you're doing?

SHINNY  
What is your malfunction?

JAKE  
You're flashing around our nitrous in broad daylight.

SHINNY  
Sorry, I was just so excited about our winnings. I couldn't help heading over at lunch to pick up the juice.

JAKE  
You can't bring The Hunk here Shinny.

SHINNY  
Why not?

JAKE

We don't want our teachers, or anybody for that matter, to know that we are fixing to street race.

SHINNY

What? Who cares? Anyway, The Hunk is meant to be incognito. Ain't nobody going to know this is a mean street racing machine.

O.C.

You street race that road hazard?

Jake and Shinny turn around to see ASIAN PUNK. He's a fellow classmate with a spiky Mohawk and studded black leather jacket. Asian Punk gives The Hunk a quick look over.

ASIAN PUNK

I saw your nitrous but is it fast?

SHINNY

It can smoke your ass.

ASIAN PUNK

That's good, my cousin and crew are headed out to drag tonight. Should be good times. Want in? I'll give you the address.

Shinny looks to Jake. Jake hesitates then hands his phone over to Asian Punk.

JAKE

Here.

Asian Punk smiles, takes the phone, and types in the address. He hands back the phone and as he walks away.

ASIAN PUNK

Bring cash.

Jake looks down at the address on the phone. Shinny pounds his open palm on the car in excitement.

SHINNY

See I told ya we'd be just fine.

Shinny pounds on the car once more. Jake steps in to stop him.

JAKE

Cut it out.

Jake reaches into Shinny's jacket pocket for the car keys.

JAKE (CONT'D)

And get this car home. We got work to do.

SHINNY

Damn straight.

Jake smiles and they split. Shinny leaves in The Hunk and Jake hops on his motor bike.

**INT. JOHNNIE'S GARAGE - DAY**

Cap, smudged with oil from a days worth of work, stands behind the cash register as a CUSTOMER impatiently taps the counter. Cap's hands hover over the register as he attempts to find the correct keys to punch. He hits a few buttons finally.

CAP

Does that look right?

The Customer passive aggressively slides over his credit card to Cap. He swipes the card and waits for the print out.

CAP (CONT'D)

Oh wait, do you want to add on wiper blades? Or new air filter? Helps with mileage.

CUSTOMER

No thanks.

Cap forces a smile but he knows he's doesn't have the hang of it with the customer service. The print out comes and the customer can not sign fast enough. The customer exits.

CAP

Come back again, if you want those wiper blades.

Cap slides the receipt into the register as Tommy walks in through the door.

CAP (CONT'D)

How can I help you...

TOMMY

You make a lousy shop clerk, and you know it.

Cap looks over his shoulder to make sure Mel is not looking then signals to Tommy.

CAP

Outside.

**EXT. JOHNNIE'S GARAGE - BACK SIDE - DAY**

Cap and Tommy reach the back side of the garage. Cap gives Tommy a shove into the siding.

CAP  
What the hell you coming around here for, Tommy?

Tommy pushes Caps hands off himself, and then brushes off his jacket calmly.

TOMMY  
Calvin, you know better than that. You're a smart guy. When you play with house money, the house always comes to collect.

CAP  
So, you're just their errand dog now?

TOMMY  
I come peacefully and you want to toss around names?

CAP  
I know, I'm working on it. Just this is not the place where we're going to handle such matters, you don't come around here.

TOMMY  
You don't make the rules. It's a small town. Where ever you go, we come find you.

CAP  
Cut the crap. The casino rakes in profits off the working people while this town barely keeps Main Street open, Tommy.

TOMMY  
Don't lecture me on the working man's plight. Worry about yourself. Do you got your money in line?

Cap keeps silent.

TOMMY (CONT'D)  
Calvin, you know how far our hand reaches.  
(MORE)

TOMMY (CONT'D)  
 City, County, State, we know the  
 system, all the players. You know  
 that we have ways of finding  
 compensation, taking what's ours.  
 This is your garage and your  
 house, is it not?

Cap raises a fist but holds back.

CAP  
 Don't you even say it.

TOMMY  
 You got til the end of the week.  
 First payment before something  
 unfortunate happens. Would be a  
 real shame.

Cap slams his fist into the shop wall out of frustration.

TOMMY (CONT'D)  
 I'm glad you understand.

Tommy walks back around front.

**EXT. JOHNNIE'S GARAGE - FRONT - CONTINUOUS**

Tommy hops into his car: a street ready Ferrari. Mel stands at  
 the open garage door confused as she sees Tommy speeding off.

Cap comes walking back around.

MEL  
 Who was that in the Ferrari?

CAP  
 Just an old friend, we're going to  
 catch up later. I hate to say this  
 but I was actually having fun  
 working on cars here for a moment.  
 But I need need to head into town,  
 mind if I borrow the tow truck for  
 a ride?

Mel pauses she knows something is up, but relaxes.

MEL  
 Knock yourself out, you've earned  
 it.

She grabs the keys from behind the counter and tosses them to  
 Cap.



**INT. JAKE AND SHINNY'S GARAGE - DAY**

Jake leans through the driver side door of The Hunk as he works on fixing in nitrous tanks.

Shinny walks into the garage. Jake's steps back out of the car.

JAKE

The nitrous lines are good and the bottles are set. We're good for a test hit. Where the hell have you been?

SHINNY

Absolutely not. A test hit? We can't waste nitrous on tests. We got to save it for the race.

JAKE

We are not racing.

SHINNY

Don't bull-shit me. You know the car is ready. Enough with the tinkering.

Shinny reaches from his back pocket and pulls out a wad of cash.

SHINNY (CONT'D)

Check it out.

He fans it in front of Jake's face. Jake swats his hand away.

JAKE

Where'd you get that?

SHINNY

It's our bidding money. I traded in Grandpop's guitar.

JAKE

You sold Grandad's Johnny Cash signed guitar?

SHINNY

Uh, yeah.

Jake punches Shinny right in the shoulder. Shinny shoves back. All hell breaks loose and the two boys are brought to the ground wrestling.

JAKE  
You out of your mind, it's  
priceless.

Shinny yells from his headlock.

SHINNY  
Apparently not.

JAKE  
You're a damn idiot.

Jake's wrestles the money from Shinny and then is back on his feet. Out of breath.

JAKE (CONT'D)  
Where is it? I'm getting it back.

Shinny rubs at his sore neck.

SHINNY  
Down at the pawn.

JAKE  
You pawned it?

SHINNY  
You think I would actually sell it outright? We get the money now. Roll the dice on tonight's race. We win, we buy the guitar back. We lose, we figure out the money and buy the guitar back anyway. They can't sell any items they get for 30 days. We're in the clear.

JAKE  
Roll the dice?

SHINNY  
Yeah, and we're the one's bringing the dice and they're loaded.

JAKE  
You really are a damn idiot sometimes.

Jake stares down at the wad of cash in his hands and contemplates his next move.

**EXT. PLAINVIEW CREDIT UNION - DAY**

The Sullivan family tow truck pulls up to the front of the Main street, small town bank. Cap walks inside.

**INT. PLAINVIEW CREDIT UNION - DAY**

Cap speaks with the bank TELLER as he writes down on a withdrawal slip.

CAP

Large bills will be fine, and can you let me know what the remaining balance is?

Cap slides over the withdraw slip. The TELLER looks at the amount and adjusts their glasses.

TELLER

Mr. Sullivan you do not have sufficient funds in this account for this withdraw.

CAP

That can't be right.

The Teller turns the computer monitor around to show Cap the amount.

Cap slams his fist on to the counter and storms off.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE**INT. SULLIVAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Cap sits on the edge of the pull-out couch. In the dim light he scratches a pen to paper as he drafts a letter.

The letter begins "Dear Mel, I need to leave Texas and I won't be coming back..."

Cap finishes the letter and seals it in an envelope with Mel's name written on it in large letters. He stares at this "time bomb" in his hands then stuffs it into his duffle bag.

He picks up his coat and exits.

**EXT. JOHNNIE'S GARAGE - NIGHT**

The old company tow truck, is out in front of the garage. It has a hitch trailer on the back of it, and on the trailer is Gracie. Cap reaches up and closes the elephant doors of the shop. The garage door locks and then the shop lights go dark.

Cap walks out the front entrance, locks the front door, and then drives off in the tow truck hauling the trailer hitched Gracie.

**EXT. ABANDONED ROAD - NIGHT**

The tow truck and Gracie fly down a stretch of an old abandon highway.

Cap pulls over the truck and steps out in front of the headlights shining on the highway. On the pavement are dark and layered sets of burnout marks. Cap examines the pavement.

CAP

Still looks like a hot spot.  
Pavement is in decent shape.

Cap kills the headlights in the tow truck then moves to the trailer hitch. Cap unhooks Gracie off the trailer.

Cap attempt to loosen his left shoulder and arm despite it being still in the brace. He grits his teeth and grabs at the joint as it seems to still feel painful.

Cap steps into the car and fires up the engine. He parks Gracie on top of the marks and spins the wheels. The car finally lurches forward completing the burnout.

Cap rolls the car back on to its mark and positions himself to shoot straight down the abandoned highway.

CAP (CONT'D)  
Just like old times Gracie girl.

Cap tightens his grip on the steering wheel. He revs the engine twice and on the third count he takes off.

Gracie hooks and flies down the stretch of highway. Cap monitors his RPM's and shifts in to second gear, then third gear.

As his hand stays on the shifter we can see Cap gritting his teeth again as his left arm holds tight on the steering.

The RPM's kick higher and Gracie is ready for fourth gear. Cap shifts again. The pain in his arm increases and Cap let's out a painful grunt.

From behind the vehicle, street level, Gracie begins to veer off and to the left.

Cap stares down his instruments and again must shift. He pops the clutch and grinds into fifth gear.

The pain is unbearable and Caps left arm drops the wheel to the left. Gracie hops off the road onto the dirt shoulder for a brief second.

Cap panics and turns the wheel to the right to compensate but he's moving to fast. Gracie spins out 360 degrees in the middle of the abandoned road.

CAP (CONT'D)  
Damn it!

Cap pounds his right fist on the steering wheel.

Cap then steps out from the vehicle. He stares down the stretch of highway examining the track of his test hit. He leans up against the side of Gracie. He shakes his head.

CAP (CONT'D)  
Sorry I hit you back there,  
Gracie.

Cap looks off in the distance. From about a mile or two away Cap can see headlights moving about. On cue, the sound of two racers dragging echoes in the middle of the night.

CAP (CONT'D)  
Looks like we got some action  
going on.

**EXT. RACING SPOT - NIGHT**

It's race night in Texas! About a dozen or so street racing cars line this stretch of abandoned highway. They are several groups of racers that have shown up tonight: The "Ricers" who primarily race in Asian makes and models, the "American Muscle" who bleed Ford and Chevy, and the "New Money" with their expensive European rides.

Each racer has their own entourage adding to the numbers of this party. Drinking, smoking, and betting maintain the lively atmosphere.

Jake and Shinny arrive to the drag in The Hunk. The vehicle crawls down the main strip past the other racers. Shinny's head is on a swivel as he takes in the scene.

SHINNY

Holy Shit, this is the real deal!

Shinny hangs his head out the window as they pass by one of the Asian Racers. The Asian Racer points, laughs, and taps his buddy on the shoulder so he can also laugh at The Hunk.

Jake blushes at the laughter, feeling embarrassed.

Jake looks out his side of the window and notices Dani. She stands next to Travis whom straddles his motorcycle and talking with a group of fellow "New Money". Dani turns and makes eye contact Jake. She is shocked to see Jake's unfamiliar face here at the race.

Jake breaks the eye contact and shows embarrassment. He reaches over and pulls Shinny's torso back into the vehicle.

JAKE

Keep it cool, just act like we're suppose to be here.

SHINNY

No worries, look! Park over there.

The Hunk parks next to a foursome of "New Money" goons sitting in lawn chairs next to their vehicle: a Porsche with a comically large spoiler on the back. They are drinking and crushing beers.

Shinny and Jake step out of their car and are instantly joked on by the stout and round SONNY.

SONNY

Hey does your baby-sitter know you're out?

(MORE)

SONNY (CONT'D)

Or did you have to wait for her to fall asleep to sneak out?

SHINNY

Oh she knows, she's a great baby-sitter. Nice lawn furniture, I guess you can expect a couple of tailgaters here to watch the REAL racers drag.

The entourage is pleasantly surprised by the comeback and laugh at the insult.

Jake elbows Shinny in the rib, but he's having too much fun.

SONNY

Check out the mouth on this one. Hey grade school I've been racing long before you were sucking on your momma's teat.

SHINNY

Alright, I guess you mean car racing, cause you definitely don't mean foot race.

The goons barrel over with laughter even Sonny. Sonny stands, chugs his beer, and slaps his rotund belly proudly.

SONNY

Alright kid, past your bed time. Take your car home, that's if it can make it back there without breaking down. What a piece of crap.

JAKE

We'll race you.

SONNY

We ain't here to play games. We're here to drag some ass and make some cash.

More laughs from the goons until Shinny pulls out the wad of bills from the pawn shop haul.

SHINNY

Oh, you can drag for money here? Good thing we brought some cheddar.

SONNY

Okay boy, bring around your car.  
Cause Sonny is always hungry for  
that cheddar.

**EXT. RACING SPOT - MOMENTS LATER**

Cap rolls up in the tow truck. His presence has not gone unnoticed. He passes by the other cars as the racers and spectators whisper and point in his direction. Audible whispers of "Cap's back" and "Is he racing again?" are heard.

Cap looks uncomfortable with all the attention but his mood suddenly changes when he spots Dani and Travis.

Cap hits the breaks and puts the truck in park. He steps out of the cab.

CAP

Dani!

DANI

I don't need a lecture, I can go  
where ever I want.

CAP

The hell you can, it's dangerous  
out here. What if the cops were to  
arrive?

DANI

Cops? I'll tell them exactly  
what's happening. I'm watching  
street racing on an abandoned  
stretch of highway, all while not  
abusing drugs or alcohol.

CAP

Well you definitely better not be  
doing that last part. Go home.

DANI

I love you, but no.

Travis steps forward to defend Dani.

TRAVIS

Hey Cap, everything is cool. It  
has been very safe out here.

CAP

That's my little sister, so stay  
out of this kid. I'll be talking  
to you later.



DANI  
Stop it, Cappy.

From off screen steps Tommy, happy as a pig in mud to see Cap. Tommy throws an arm over Cap and interrupts.

TOMMY  
Looks at us one big happy family.

Cap pushes Tommy's arm away.

CAP  
Off me, Tommy.

TOMMY  
Is that ole Gracie over there?  
Don't tell me you're out here to  
drag. You really think you should  
be racing when you owe quite a  
debt already?

Dani is shocked to hear this news. It breaks Cap's heart for her to find out. She can't bear to look at Cap and turns to Travis.

TRAVIS  
Let's go grab a bite.

DANI  
Yeah, let's get out of here.

CAP  
Dani.

Travis hops on his bike and hands Dani her helmet. The two ride off on the motorcycle, leaving Tommy and Cap.

TOMMY  
They grow up so fast.

CAP  
I've had enough of you.

TOMMY  
If you're really looking to race,  
we can make things interesting.  
I've been wanting to see how many  
lengths the Ferrari can reach a  
head in a quarter mile.

CAP  
I'm just a spectator, don't you  
worry. It's your lucky night.

Cap walks away towards the starting line. Tommy turns to the crowd.

TOMMY

Looks like Cap don't got it  
anymore. Out of money. Out of gas.  
Gracie is old news.

Cap balls up his fist but keeps walking.

**EXT. RACING SPOT - STARTING LINE - MOMENTS LATER**

Sonny and Jake have placed their cars on the starting line and sit in their drivers seats. The Hunk on the left, the Porsche to the right. Their crews buzz about the vehicles making sure their ready to race.

Jake looks to Sonny and sees his crew pouring liquid underneath the Porsche's tires. The bottle is labeled "Pimp Juice." Sonny rolls the car on top of it and then burns out the tires. It makes a sticky puddle.

Jake turns to Shinny who is just outside the driver's side window.

JAKE

You see that? Pimp Juice? They're  
using it to get better traction  
for their tires.

SHINNY

I've seen this before, don't worry  
I got the next best thing.

Shinny dives in the back of Hunk for his back pack. He reaches in the bag and retrieves a bottle of Dr. Pepper.

SHINNY (CONT'D)

The doctor is in.

Jake and Shinny work together. Shinny setting up the Dr. Pepper under the tires and Jake making his burnout.

Cap watches with the other spectators lined up at the starting line. Bet's are being placed around him but Cap is focused on the boys.

CAP

I hopes these two know what  
they're doing. Sonny is no slouch.

One of the goons acts as the race officiator. The officiator uses precise hand signals to line up the cars evenly.

A palm out stops the cars in the right spots. The officiator gives Jake the OK sign and Jake returns him with a thumbs up.

Jake looks over at Sonny and the two exchange glances. Sonny looks forward to see the officiator giving him the OK sign. Sonny gives him a salute and revs his engine. He smiles back at Jake once more before looking down the road.

The officiator nods. He takes one last look down the stretch to see the finish line judge. The Finish Line Judge flashes his flash light; coast is clear.

The officiator turns back to the racers and back peddles five steps back down the race way. With flash light at his side, it's alarmingly fast how quickly he raises it shoulder height and flips the switch. One signal beam of light, GO!

The cars peel off the starting line and hook the street. The Hunk and Porsche are at an even start!

Jake hits second gear and then third no problem.

Cap looks on, his heart racing, eyes fixated on The Hunk.

CAP (CONT'D)

Not yet.

Sonny pops into third, and immediately hits his nitrous button. In a blur, the Porsche lengthens ahead of The Hunk.

Jake sees Sonny pull ahead, Jake's thumb hovers over his nitrous switch.

Cap still fixated The Hunk speaks as if he's in the car with Jake.

CAP (CONT'D)

Not yet.

With Sonny's car a length ahead he's primed to win.

Jake shifts into fourth.

Cap yells.

CAP (CONT'D)

Now!

Jake hits his nitrous. The Hunk launches forward and gains on Sonny's tail.

They're neck and neck, the finish line is only a few car lengths away. The cars both shift into fifth gear. The Hunk gains a few mere inches on the Porsche.

Sonny knows he's beaten and turns his steering wheel slightly to the left.

The Porsche edges close to the center line and then suddenly slams on the breaks.

The Porsche turns into The Hunk and fishtails Jake as they cross the finish line.

The Porsche safely stops in the lane as it veered to the left.

Jake can't control his car as he turns and breaks. As The Hunk is perpendicular to the lane it begins to flip over. It takes two hefty barrel rolls before finally landing top side in the right side ditch.

The starting line crowd looks on in horror.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR**EXT. RACING SPOT - FINISH LINE - NIGHT**

Jake's car remains flipped over in the ditch near the finish line. From a distance a few fellow racers and spectators rush down the highway to help with the accident.

Shinny dashes on foot faster and more determined than any other out there. He arrives at The Hunk's drivers side door. Two other racers are already there helping out.

SHINNY

Jake!

The racers reach inside the driver side window and pull the body from the seat. Jake is very much alive! Except for a gash on his cheek and the dirt on his clothes he seems relatively fine. Jake squirms out of The Hunk and jumps to his feet.

JAKE

Where is he? Let me at that cheating bastard.

Jake is ready to start throwing his fists but Shinny interrupts by wrapping him up in a big hug.

SHINNY

Jake, you're living and breathing!

JAKE

Yeah, I'm physically fine, but mentally I'm about to get dangerous.

Jake stomps up out of the ditch past the onlookers to find Sonny. Sonny stands by his vehicle explaining his story to his entourage and Tommy.

Jake pushes his way through the crowd. He reaches Sonny and gives him a good two hand push to the chest.

JAKE (CONT'D)

You tried to kill me you son of a bitch.

Sonny's goons hold back Jake. Shinny comes running to his brother's side. Cap watches on with the crowd.

SONNY

Back off young blood. You got to learn how to race. Crossing into my lane is against the rules.

(MORE)

SONNY (CONT'D)

Of course your ride is going to get tagged.

JAKE

What are you talking about? Are you mad?

SONNY

You crossed the lane. It's the most dangerous move you can make and get your ass disqualified.

JAKE

You maniac, you know damn well that's not the case.

Sonny looks to Tommy. Tommy steps in as an officiator.

TOMMY

Crossing the lane loses you the race kids. What does the line judge have to say? This kid cross the lane?

The finish line judge nods his head.

SHINNY

That's bull! He's one of Sonny's guys.

TOMMY

You don't have much of a case here.

Cap makes his presence known and steps up to Tommy.

CAP

The skid marks from the spin out start a good ten, fifteen feet from the finish. Regardless of who hit who, the boys finished the race long before this calamity. Those tread marks don't lie. Sonny, pay the boys.

The crowd rabbles with agreement with Cap. Tommy is not to pleased.

TOMMY

We don't listen to washed up racers around here.

CAP

Does that mean you'll stop talking now?

The crowd eats up the insult slam and look to Tommy to react.

TOMMY

I'd drag you anytime. I would say put your money where your mouth is, but I don't race for nickels if you still have that much left.

CAP

Then we race for slips.

The crowd hushes. Tommy doesn't like this proposal and hesitates to comment.

CAP (CONT'D)

Who's washed up now?

TOMMY

You don't know when to stop gambling, Calvin. I will own you, you're on.

Tommy extends his hand. Cap shakes on it.

CAP

And the boys?

Tommy leans back over to Sonny.

TOMMY

You got beat, pay the boys whatever chump change you were betting.

Sonny protests for a beat but Tommy doesn't budge. Sonny grimaces and signals his goon holding the bet. The goon tosses the money at Jake's feet.

A RACER in the crowd looks up from his cell phone and yells to the crowd.

RACER

Some idiot called for an ambulance. We got to get out of here.

Tommy points to Cap as the crowd begins to shuffle.

TOMMY

Two nights from now.

The racers disperse.

**EXT. RACING SPOT - FINISH LINE - MOMENTS LATER**

Jake and Shinny run over to The Hunk still lying bottom side up in the ditch.

SHINNY

Is it completely wrecked?

JAKE

I don't know for sure but it ain't going no where sitting on its back.

SHINNY

And that emergency response, it'll take them a bit to find this remote spot, but they will find us before we can do anything about it. They'll alert the sheriff as well. We're busted.

JAKE

We're over. Done and dead.

At that moment two headlights shoot over the edge of the ditch. Cap steps out from the his tow truck.

CAP

What's your name kid?

Jake looks up at Cap who stands statuesque in the tow truck headlights.

JAKE

The name's Jake Kelly. That's my brother Shinny.

CAP

You're racing for me now Jake. You're my new driver.

SHINNY

Whoa whoa, Mr. potential highway strangler. What's in it for us?

Cap walks to the back of the tow and flips lever for the lift release.

CAP

I'll pull your car out of the ditch for starters.



SHINNY

Oh, okay, that sounds good.

**EXT. JOHNNIE'S GARAGE - DAWN**

The tow truck is back in its parking spot. The morning sun creeps over the top of the garage. The lights are on inside.

**INT. JOHNNIE'S GARAGE - CONTINUOUS**

The boys SNORE loudly as they sleep in the waiting area. Cap takes up a whole couch to himself, Jake sleeps across three waiting chairs, and Shinny is curled up on the floor.

Dani walks in through the front entrance. She immediately spots the three sleeping giants. She grabs a car magazine off a side table and rolls it up. She starts to swat at the boys with the magazine waking them up.

DANI

Shoo, shoo. Get out of here you racing rats. Time to wake up and go.

The boys are groggy and do not appreciate the smacks of the magazine.

SHINNY

What the hell?

CAP

Dani!

JAKE

What time is it?

Jake looks at his watch, then smacks Shinny.

SHINNY

What's with all the violence this morning?

JAKE

Shinny we got to go. We're late for school.

CAP

Didn't peg you two as the educational types.

DANI

Cappy, don't be jealous cause  
you're still learning to read big  
words.

Jake and Shinny scramble to put their shoes back on and gather their belongings. Cap seems to finally wake up and remember about last night.

CAP

Guys, your ride?

The Hunk sits in the middle of the garage it's pretty smashed up. Dani walks over to it.

DANI

Did I miss a demolition derby  
after I left last night?

SHINNY

Yeah, that thing is totaled.

JAKE

I don't know, it could be drivable  
after we replace the front tires  
and check for leaks.

SHINNY

No time for that.

DANI

Leave the car here, it IS a  
garage. I'll drive you to school.

JAKE

You'd take us?

CAP

Yeah, help me push it over there,  
and we'll cover it.

They move the vehicle to the shop corner and put a dust cover on it.

SHINNY

Let's go.

CAP

Jake, meet back here tonight.

Jake nods. Shinny and Jake head out the door. Dani hangs back.

DANI

You need to come clean with Mel.

CAP

Are you going to lecture me?  
You're also out there hanging  
with hooligans at all hours,  
street racing.

DANI

I can handle myself. If you  
haven't noticed, I grew up. To the  
point you're going to make me be  
the adult. You know better, Mel  
always finds out. You got  
something going on and you need to  
come clean.

CAP

My business is MY business.

Dani begins to exit.

DANI

It's always been family business,  
whether you like it or not.

**EXT. JOHNNIE'S GARAGE - DAY**

Shinny and Jake stand face to face with Travis. Travis  
straddles his motorbike staring at the two brothers.

SHINNY

Yo.

TRAVIS

What are you two doing here?

SHINNY

Sleep-over.

TRAVIS

You really want me to beat the  
shit out of you?

Dani walks up behind them.

DANI

They wrecked their car and they're  
dropping it off for repairs.

TRAVIS

Oh yeah, I saw the video. The guys  
are passing it around. You really  
shit the bed on that race.

JAKE

Hey! Our bed is free of ...shit.  
That Sonny guy pulled some kind of  
kamikaze tantrum at the finish  
line.

TRAVIS

Looks like you crashed.

DANI

You crashed?

SHINNY

Yo, can I check out that video?

TRAVIS

Dani, let's go.

DANI

I promised these two a ride. Meet  
you at free period?

Travis kicks the dirt, not happy at all. He puts on his helmet  
and speeds off leaving Dani in the dust.

SHINNY

He's a real charmer. A dream-boat.  
Not a big talker.

Dani shakes her head before she pulls out a set of car keys  
from her bag.

DANI

Come on, we're taking the Taurus.

Dani leads the boys over to an old, partially rusting, Ford  
Taurus.

**INT. TAURUS - DRIVING - DAY**

Dani drives, Jake rides shotgun, and Shinny in the back. Shinny  
leans forward to break the silence.

SHINNY

So, what's up?

DANI

You raced that jalopy last night?

JAKE

It's not a jalopy.

DANI

Who'd race that?

JAKE  
His name was Sonny.

DANI  
Fat? Drunk?

SHINNY  
Correct on both accounts.

DANI  
You let that guy beat you?

JAKE  
Technically we won.

DANI  
Doesn't sound like it.

SHINNY  
He paid up but we can't do squat  
now that the car is out of  
commission.

DANI  
Why the hell were you guys even  
out there anyway?

Shinny leans in between the front seats.

SHINNY  
Why the hell were you out there?

JAKE  
Why does anyone do anything?  
Racing is in our blood.

DANI  
And what does that mean?

SHINNY  
What's with all the questions  
lady?

Jake pushes Shinny back down into his seat.

JAKE  
I mean blood. Our grandfather was  
a racer. He was professional  
racer, mainly formula 3, even a  
few formula 1 races. He use to  
tell us stories about racing the  
greats and traveling the world. Me  
and Shinny could listen to him for  
hours.

DANI  
Why you held up out here in  
Plainview?

SHINNY  
Grandpa never saved a dime. Drank  
most of it away right to his  
grave.

DANI  
Sorry to hear.

JAKE  
He never was rich. Made a living,  
but never really rich. We're his  
legacy and I want to be there  
where my grandfather was. With the  
pros. Honor his name.

For the first time Dani smiles as she looks at Jake with new eyes.

DANI  
That's admirable. But it's going  
to take some money.

SHINNY  
A whole lot of spending money. To  
do it right.

DANI  
You're going to do it with your  
junker?

Dani pulls the Taurus into a parking spot at the school.

SHINNY  
Not now that Jake is racing for  
Cap.

DANI  
What?!

Jake leans back over his seat and punches Shinny in the shoulder.

JAKE  
Thanks for the ride.

SHINNY  
It was a pleasure.

Jake and Shinny pile out of the car. Dani shakes her head.

DANI  
Cappy...

**INT. JOHNNIE'S GARAGE - DAY**

Cap finishes ringing up a customer. Cap looks sluggish and can barely keep his eyes open. The customer exits.

CAP  
Have a great day.

Cap immediately rests his head on the counter. Mel walks over to him. She snaps a rag at him and he startles awake.

MEL  
You're doing pretty good with the customers even as a half awake zombie.

CAP  
It was a long night.

Cap puts his head on the counter once more. Mel sits up on the counter.

MEL  
Tell me all about it. You can start with why there is a smashed up mustang in the corner over there.

CAP  
Oh, a friend hit a guard rail needed a tow. I helped out.

MEL  
You got a lot of "friends" all of a sudden. Free tow jobs in the middle of the night? Is that our new business model?

CAP  
Let's not talk about money.

MEL  
Give them a quote on the damages or get it out of here.

Cap bites his tongue.

CAP  
Okay.

MEL  
You're wrapped, go get some sleep.

CAP  
Okay.

MEL  
Hey, I like having you back around  
the garage.

Cap gives a shy grin before he stumbles out of the garage.

Mel lets out a sigh. She walks over to The Hunk and lifts up  
the dust cover.

MEL  
Right, hell of guard rail.

She looks at the tires. Her hand moves over the treads worn  
from racing.

MEL (CONT'D)  
Damn it, Cap.

**INT. SULLIVAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Cap is asleep on the terrible couch bed, heavily sawing logs.

**EXT. SULLIVAN HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

Jake and Shinny approach the house's drive way on their  
motorcycle. They dismount and walk up the front porch.

**INT. SULLIVAN HOUSE -LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

Cap wakes up to find Jake and Shinny hovering over him.

SHINNY  
He's even uglier when he's  
sleeping, wasn't expecting that.

Cap startled rolls over the side of the bed.

CAP  
What's the matter with you?!

JAKE  
Is it the wrong time? Do you want  
us to come back?

SHINNY  
Gnarly looking scar.



Cap sits up on the floor.

CAP  
Get out of the house. You're like  
two busted headlights: dim and  
useless. Meet me over at the car.

Jake and Shinny exit. Cap rubs his face awake.

**EXT. JOHNNIE'S GARAGE - NIGHT**

Cap, Jake, and Shinny push Gracie out of the garage and down on to the main road.

**INT. GRACIE - NIGHT**

Jake sits in the driver seat, Cap passenger side. Shinny pokes in his head.

SHINNY  
Where am I sitting?

CAP  
You're not.

JAKE  
Sorry, Shinny.

SHINNY  
Naw, it's cool. I'll just hang out  
here in the ditch.

CAP  
Sounds good to me.

Jake shrugs.

CAP (CONT'D)  
Go ahead start her up.

**EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS**

Gracie starts up and pulls off down the street. Shinny stands there in the dust.

SHINNY  
Don't worry, I'll just work on my  
homework? Who am I kidding?

**INT. GRACIE - CONTINUOUS**

Cap instructs Jake.

CAP

All you have to do is listen to engine. Gracie, she'll tell you what to do.

JAKE

Oh Boy, you're one of those guys that treats their cars like...

CAP

(cuts him off)

Yeah, yeah, get over it and drive. Get on the highway here.

Jake pulls onto the highway ramp.

CAP (CONT'D)

Move over to the left lane. In three miles we can open her up get a feel for her.

JAKE

Why aren't you racing Gracie yourself?

CAP

Does it matter?

JAKE

Seems a little weird. You worried that people will think you lost your edge?

Cap delivers Jake a disapproving look, but gives in. Cap shows the brace on his arm. He lifts his left arm as high as he can before it causes him pain.

CAP

I made a mistake. One that cost me. This arm I can raise it only so much, and can't keep it steady without it hurting like a son of a bitch.

JAKE

Is it going to heal?

CAP

I don't know. I hope so.

Cap rubs his arm. But he's done pitying himself.

CAP (CONT'D)

That's why I got you now. I don't trust anyone I know in town these days and know one knows a damn about you guys. I saw you race last night, and you had it, that racing instinct. Right?

JAKE

I guess.

CAP

Don't guess, know that you do.

They pass a last exit sign.

CAP (CONT'D)

Let's see what you can do. Hit it.

Jake accelerates the vehicle. Jake's grin widens as Gracie starts to cruise faster. Cap smiles for once as well.

CAP (CONT'D)

There you go, that's it! Watch your dials!

Jake shifts.

CAP (CONT'D)

Good. Listen now, hear that?

JAKE

Hear what?

CAP

Your engine is taking in too much air. Can you feel the car lifting?

Jake nods.

CAP (CONT'D)

We want to move horizontal and not over work the engine. The air is cold. That makes it denser, that means more oxygen reaching the engine through the turbo charger. We'll retune when we get back.

JAKE

Yeah, I hear that now.

Cap reaches for the valve between the seat for the nitrous tank and cranks it.

CAP

Get it into fourth and we'll give it a tap of the nitrous to see how she kicks.

JAKE

Really?

Cap nods. Jake gets into fourth and hits the nitrous switch. Gracie rockets down the highway. Jake cheers in excitement.

CAP

Alright, bring her back down.

Jake attempts to slow down the car when suddenly a wheel blows out. Jake begins to lose control of Gracie.

CAP

Stay Calm and then turn away from the center line, maintain control.

Jake pumps the break and muscles the steering wheel into the turn. It's jarring and they skid to a 180 degree stop towards the gutter. Gracie sits on the side of the highway.

JAKE

Something like that?

CAP

Well, the seat belts work. All kinds of life threatening things can happen on the pavement. Are you sure you're ready to take this risk?

JAKE

I've never been more sure of anything.

CAP

I knew it, you're just like me I'd do anything to get in a race thinking it solve all my problems.

Cap steps outside of Gracies and kicks the flat. He then stares down the long stretch of empty highway.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE**INT. JOHNNIE'S GARAGE - MORNING**

Cap finishes swapping out tires on Gracie as Mel storms into the garage. Mel is too angry, and Cap wants to avoid the discussion.

MEL

Is this going to be a regular thing?

CAP

It's the only damn thing I have left. What do you care what I do with this car.

MEL

You're street racing. A bit obvious with that kid who came back with Gracie late last night, he is in on this. It's not like I didn't think you would go out to drag. But the money. How bad is it? How much do you owe?

CAP

How much do I owe you're one to talk.

Mel throws an envelope at Cap, the one he wrote for Mel.

CAP

You're going through my things now? You weren't suppose to get that letter.

MEL

It's addressed to me ain't it? Did you meant it? This silly going away letter? You were going to take your car and disappear all along. Leave me and Dani yet again with all this family baggage Johnnie left us.

CAP

You spent the money, Mel. I saw it at the Credit Union it's all gone! That was our money. This is as much my fault as it is yours. You need to listen to me. If we sell the garage this all goes away.

(MORE)

CAP (CONT'D)

The financial problems, the burdens, the damn pains.

MEL

You have no right to put that on me. What did you expect? Medical and funeral costs took everything out of that bank account. You're not the only one that feels hurt. We miss him so much but face reality Cap: he is dead. We agreed to help and took out those 2nd mortgages on the property to help Johnnie fight all he could.

CAP

Damn it! I tried to do my part, why do you think I got out of this town in the first place? So we can attempt to try and cover those debts. You have any idea how hard it is to be back here with nothing to show? He took care of us. He raised us.

MEL

I do have an idea how hard it is. It's even harder to have to go through it with out you.

CAP

You wouldn't be saying that...

MEL

What's the matter?

CAP

Yeah, I'm the loser and the wash-up. I owe more than you know. If we just sell the business it can be all over.

MEL

You don't think I have dreams too. You think I want to be tied down to this? But someone has to take responsibility and Johnnie's is no longer yours to play around with.

CAP

I saw your art school letter, you're just as ready to dump this garage.

MEL

Get out.

CAP

Yeah sure, you always think you're right but I'm the one putting out the fires.

MEL

Get out!

Cap opens the door and steps into the Chevy Nova.

MEL (CONT'D)

Don't bother coming back. I'm done with your acting out, go! Just leave like you want to, cause they're not taking my garage.

CAP

I'm gonna set everything straight, then I'll be out of here!

Cap fires up the car and burns out from the drive way.

Cap reaches for his cell phone and checks his message.

A text from Jake reads "Are we still on for tonight?"

**EXT. RACING SPOT - NIGHT**

It's racing night again but only two cars are being prep for tonight's race: Gracie and the Ferrari.

Jake and Shinny ice down the nitrous tanks in plastic coolers. Cap examines under the hood of the Nova.

JAKE

Do you think the car is ready to go?

CAP

We've been at it all day, I don't think there's much more tuning we can do here.

SHINNY

I tuned out a long time ago.

Tommy from across the road way approaches Cap.

TOMMY

Honestly, I didn't expect you to show.

CAP

Always a smug son of a bitch. Just get your car to the line.

TOMMY

Ha, so much for showmanship. Break a leg or that other arm.

Tommy laughs and walks away.

Back by Gracie, Jake stumbles over to the nearby ditch. With a great heave, he vomits up his dinner.

DANI (O.C.)

I would be nervous too.

Jake turns around. Dani stands at the top of the ditch. Jake glows red with embarrassment.

JAKE

You saw me yak there, huh?

Shinny joins Dani atop of the ditch. He starts to point and laugh.

SHINNY

I can't believe I missed it, it sounded great!

Jake stomps out of the ditch.

JAKE

Whatever, let's just say I'm making the car lighter.

Jake approaches the driver side of Gracie ignoring his friends, but Dani follows.

DANI

I got you something.

Dani holds up a clear bottle filled with a yellow goo.

JAKE

What's that?

DANI

It may not look it but this girl knows a thing or two about drag racing.

(MORE)



DANI (CONT'D)  
And I can make one mean batch of  
pimp juice.

Dani hands of the jug to Jake, he is speechless and blushing.

DANI (CONT'D)  
Be safe, good luck.

JAKE  
Good luck to you too...

Dani walks away. Shinny mocks Jake.

SHINNY  
Good luck to you too.

JAKE  
Shut up.

Jake tosses Shinny the jug and then hops into the driver seat.

**EXT. RACE SPOT - STARTING LINE - MOMENTS LATER**

Gracie and the Ferrari have reached the starting line.

Tommy, now driver side in the Ferrari, yells out to Cap.

TOMMY  
You can't even drag your own  
races? Pathetic.

CAP  
It's my car and it will still beat  
you.

TOMMY  
You're just making it easier on me  
and I don't mind it at all.

The two cars find their marks, lay down their pimp juice, and perform their burnouts.

Cap knocks on Gracie's windshield and gives Jake a thumbs up. Jake shoots a thumbs up back.

The officiator make his final adjustments with the cars giving them hands signals to inch the cars into the right spots. As soon as the officiator is satisfied he takes a few steps back to find his own mark.

The Ferrari and Gracie rev their engines, each itching to go. The officiator, with little warning, brings up his flashlight and quickly gives the signal.

The Ferrari nearly jumps the line with a fantastic start. Jake looks the novice as Gracie leaves milliseconds behind. Jake knows his mistake.

JAKE

Damn it!

CAP

Shit!

Gracie hooks well and picks up speed. After hitting third gear Gracie creeps on the Ferrari.

CAP (CONT'D)

Come on kid you know what to do.

The Ferrari shifts and gains a little more lead. Gracie creeps again on the Ferrari, the tuning seems to have worked Gracie is the faster car!

The Ferrari shifts and Tommy hits the nitrous. Gracie shifts and Jake switches on his nitrous.

CAP (CONT'D)

He's got it!

The finish line sails by and Gracie has inched it's way for the win.

Jake shouts in an adrenaline filled celebration. Tommy pounds his fists on the steering wheel.

The two cars break and turn around as they drive back to the starting line.

As soon as the car stops Jake is dragged out of the driver seat by Shinny and Cap as they celebrate.

Cap and Jake shakes hands. Shinny recognizes the moment of being left out; it's the beginning of something he may not be part of.

Tommy exits the Ferrari. He yells at his crew who attempts to console him.

TOMMY

Back off!

Tommy crosses over to the now glowing Cap.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

You know this means nothing. You were suppose to race me, not him. You're not getting the Ferrari.

Tommy flashes a concealed gun at Cap. Tommy gritts his teeth waiting for Cap to make a move. A bead of sweat rolls down from his temple.

Jake and Shinny back down, Cap doesn't flinch.

CAP

Cut it out. You can keep your slip, but tell your boss I'll settle up with him instead of his middle man.

Tommy cocks his head and covers the gun.

TOMMY

There's no way you'll get anywhere close to what you owe on your debt.

CAP

I know, but consider yourself off this job.

TOMMY

Calvin, always the sportsman.

Tommy is done licking his wounds. He secures the holster the firearm and hops in his Ferrari. The Ferrari peels out and is gone down the highway.

Cap gives Jake a hearty handshake which turns into a bro-hug. Shinny jumps in to make it a group hug. Lastly, Dani joins the gang in with the round of hugs and celebrations.

#### **INT. JOHNNIE'S GARAGE - DAY**

Melanie opens the big garage doors of the shop preparing for a day of work. Just as she lifts the last door. Cap pulls up with the tow truck with Gracie trailered on the back.

Cap steps down from the tow truck as Mel approaches.

CAP

I'm sorry.

MEL

Sorry don't cut it.

CAP

I'm sorry I left you and Dani. Sorry I ran away. I missed Johnnie and it hurt. Then I somehow managed to make life even worse.

(MORE)

CAP (CONT'D)

I was lost but I'm back here now.  
I need you guys. You're my family.  
I'm asking you for a second  
chance.

MEL

I don't know how many second  
chances I can give.

CAP

I understand, but I will try to  
make things right.

Cap hands Mel a piece of paper.

MEL

What's this?

CAP

I cashed in my last favor. It's  
the advanced mortgage payment for  
the house and garage. And that  
other paper transfers over  
complete ownership to you. You  
were right, you are the grown up  
one, and it's pretty clear you're  
in charge around here. All the  
papers are signed. And once the  
money clears at the bank, you're  
down to single mortgage payment a  
month. It's all above board.

Mel pushes Cap back nearly knocking him off his feet.

MEL

Are you kidding me?

Mel looks over the papers again.

CAP

I'm thinking of sticking around  
for a while. At the very least do  
you think I can place Gracie here?

MEL

Oh, I'm still very upset at you.  
You're going to have to work, but  
I'm glad you're not such a dummy  
after all. Time to put in your  
hours.

CAP

Shall we talk about the wage now?

MEL  
Don't push it.

Cap smiles. A motorcycle rolls into the driveway, it's Jake and Shinny. At the same time Dani exits the house, backpack over her shoulder ready for school. Dani reaches the boys first.

DANI  
What are you two doing here?

JAKE  
Cap asked us to come, wanted to discuss something.

All look to Cap.

CAP  
Well I was thinking, since your junker...

SHINNY  
It's called 'The Hunk.'

CAP  
'The Hunk' is still in the garage and a mess. You guys can fix her up here since we have superior facilities. And maybe, we can expand our business by having you guys help out.

MEL  
Wait, I'm now giving these two jobs as well?

CAP  
They're working for garage access, plus someone's got to wash the rags.

Mel thinks about it, Jake and Shinny smile back at her anxious for the opportunity. She looks at Shinny.

MEL  
You ever spin one of them arrow signs before?

Shinny jumps up and pushes Jake.

SHINNY  
Jakey boy we just got the job!

Mel buries her head in her hand.

MEL

Oh boy. Alright, be back here  
after school. 3:30 prompt. Now get  
out of here.

The guys nod. Cap and Mel head inside. Jake and Shinny head  
back over to their motorcycle. Dani walks with them.

JAKE

Looks like we'll be working  
together.

DANI

Yeah, I guess so. Cool.

Shinny nudges Jake in the ribs as Dani walks away.

**INT. CASINO OFFICE - NIGHT**

mrs. stone sits behind her desk smoking a cigar as she usually  
does. She reaches over and pushes the button on her intercom.

MRS. STONE

Send him in.

Cap steps into the office closing the door behind him.

MRS. STONE (CONT'D)

Did you find your compensation  
adequate from what we discussed?

CAP

Yes, I received all the funds.

MRS. STONE

Thomas always finds himself biting  
off more than he can chew.  
Hopefully, we will have a better  
understanding. You're a man with  
much more to lose. And with debt  
as deep as yours, you'll perform  
far better with my errands.

CAP

Yes, Mrs. Stone.

END OF EPISODE