

THE STEWARD OF EASTLAND COUNTY

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to
do nothing, *Edmund Burk*.

Written by

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ACT I

FADE IN:

EXT. FIRST MARINE DIVISION. KOREA. VALLEY BEFORE THE HILL.
NOVEMBER 27, 1950. DAY

Lush clouds wipe over the hills that surrounds the valley. Quiet and laid out steep hills ahead and to the left daunts Charlie Company.

MICKY LANDRY, 23 looks up at the hill. Stops takes a deep breath, moves forward.

JIMMY DEACON (O.S.)

Oh, carry me back to the lone
prairie. And when I die you can
bury me. Where the coyotes howl and
the wind blows free.

Dust in the wind settles. Micky Landry stops to a bark on the other side of the great hill. Ponders takes the tooth pick out of his mouth. Looks to empty village +on the left. No smoke out of the stacks. Begins to walk.

Private First Class JIMMY DEACON, 24, walks along the staggered formation. Rifle slinged. Notices village abandoned to the right side of the valley. No smoke out of the roof. Path leads right covered by a slight hill to the right covered in high brush. Continues to sing.

Micky wanders left center road. Gunny Slides his slinged rifle down. Stops.

GUNNERY SERGEANT JAMES

Pick it up. Landry, stay on the
side of the damn road. No middle
steppin.

Dog runs over a hill and down towards the stagger formation.

Jimmy looks to the dog and smiles, as the dog barks.

JIMMY DEACON

Neath the West Texas skies on the
lone prairie.

Jimmy notices a red flag coming from the back end of the hill. Flag drops.

LANDRY

Wale it, Jimmy.

Gunny notices something wrong over the hill. Slight disbelief.

GUNNERY SERGEANT JAMES
Deacon not now. Rogers shut that
damn dog up.

Marine private whispers with toothpick in his mouth.

GUNNERY SERGEANT JAMES (CONT'D)
Where the doggies wander and the
wind blows free. What have we here?

Red flag pops up again and waives from behind the top of the hill. The flag goes down. Dog barks.

Rogers takes aim. Gunny's curiosity falls to terror. Hiss from the sky sends the dog running and men to the ditch. Frozen.

CAPTAIN JONES
Get down.

Jimmy gets hit by an incoming round from the side, flipped to the right. Explosions send men into the ditch.

Landry runs for the other side of the road and gets a direct hit. Gunnery Sergaent James bloody hand twitches in the ditch.

SERGEANT MILLER
Deacon!

Jimmy looks to see his right leg mangled and his rifle is nowhere in sight, turns his attention to the large hill over the left side of the valley.

SERGEANT MILLER (CONT'D)
Deacon!

Empty hill becomes swarmed with Chinese regulars led by their flagman run and scream down the hill. Jimmy fades back.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT./EXT. EASTLAND COUNTY, TEXAS. 1953. MAJESTIC THEATRE.
NIGHT

JIMMY DEACON, 27, stands with his Gibson Guitar at the edge of the stage, behind the curtain. Comes to. Turns to BUBBA RAY, 53.

BUBBA RAY

Deacon!

JIMMY DEACON

Yeah?

BUBBA RAY

Your up.

Jimmy takes a deep breath. Checks his guitar limps on stage with the Barber shop band. Puts his hand up to block the light.

JIMMY DEACON

Ricky Marles is that you? Well, I see we got some special guests in the theatre tonight. Boys, please stand up.

RICKY, 24, sits in the tenth row with four Marines. Marines stand up in the theatre. First four rows are empty.

Twenty-five in the Majestic, yet no young men in the audience, except two amputees and the Three Marines who sit together.

EARL, 54, African/American plays *Halls of Montezuma* with his tram.

JIMMY DEACON (CONT'D)

First Marine Division, everyone. Thank You. Uh One, uh two, one, two, three, four.

Band plays.

EXT./INT. THEATRE DRESSING ROOM. NIGHT

Lights on the theatre flicker. Band wraps up last song.

JIMMY (O.S.)

Three ladies and gentlemen. Please get home safe, and remember War bonds make better Marines, Good night.

Jimmy and BRENDA HENDERSON, 26, scatter the items off the desk. Jimmy opens her legs on the desk. Takes down his pants to the brace. Slows to a thought.

JIMMY DEACON

Did you take it down?

Brenda looks confused.

BRENDA
What? Take what down, Jimmy?

JIMMY DEACON
Damn it, Brenda. Ronald has not been gone for more than a month and you want this. Take the damn thing down. For god sakes, woman.

Jimmy pulls up his pants and dawns his suspenders. Brenda begins to cry.

BUBBA RAY (O.S.)
Hey, Jimmy. Frank wants to see you.

JIMMY DEACON
I am sorry, baby.

Jimmy attempts to hug her, then walks out.

BUBBA RAY (O.S.)
Closing in ten minutes.

INT. OFFICE. NIGHT

Enters office. Sits across from FRANK, 56.

JIMMY DEACON
Hey, Frank what you got for me?

FRANK
I am closing her down. Moving to Dallas. I can't keep her open anymore. The town left. Never came back. Lost my ass this year. Sorry. This was the last show. Clean out your room. I am going to lock her up in an hour.

Bubba Ray stands beside Jimmy.

BUBBA RAY
I am going to miss her. Maybe a miracle opens her up again. God we need one. Sorry, Jimmy.

Jimmy walks up the isle, turns then looks at the theatre. Lights go out.

EXT. OLD MUSEUM. NIGHT

Jimmy chases a pint on a bench. Looks across the street to the red white and blue bow on the street light.

EXT. OLD MUSEUM. JULY FOURTH, NINETEEN FORTY-ONE. DAY

JIM DEACON, 13, plays his acoustic guitar in front of his dog under the light post.

MAN IN THE CROWD (O.S.)
Go get em Marines.

Dog barks as the soldiers and Marines march by. Marine walks by in uniform, and turns and winks at Jimmy.

INT. DOROTHY HOME. NIGHT

Dogs bark.

BRADLEY
We are home, Mom.

WILLY, 11, and BRADLEY, 13, run into the living room and lay in front of the PHILCO 90.

Screen door slams.

DOROTHY (O.S.)
Thirty minutes.

DOROTHY DAVIS, 28, a tall brown haired lady washes the dishes and tends to the potatoes sizzling in the pan on the stove. Jennifer watches Jimmy stagger down the sidewalk with his guitar case in hand from the kitchen window.

EXT. LONE STREET. NIGHT

Jimmy walks to the stairs. BRETT, 25, walks out of Jennifer's house, stops smiles, then starts car and pulls off. Jimmy collapses in the stair on the sidewalk in front of his house. Searches for smokes. No smokes. He looks to the sky.

EXT. FIRST MARINE DIVISION. HILL BEFORE THE VALLEY. NOVEMBER, 24, 1950. DAY

Jimmy awakens to a soothing chomp from a dog, and the hums of planes overhead. He sits up to see his mangled leg. Slowly chases the sounds around him.

Dog feeds on one half of Landry.

JIMMY

Hey. Hey!

Large formation of B-29 bombers fly over head. Release payload one row at a time. Whistles begin in the distance.

Bombs explode.

FADE TO:

EXT. THE STAIRS. NIGHT

Jimmy screams to the sky.

DOROTHY

Hey.

Jimmy looks up to see Dorothy with a plate covered in foil.

DOROTHY (CONT'D)

Let me help you.

Dorothy grabs the guitar. Jimmy takes it away. Dorothy helps him up. Dorothy walks Jimmy to the door. Jimmy stands on his own.

DOROTHY (CONT'D)

Are you Okay? Here, take this.

Jimmy pulls his keys from his pocket, then takes the plate.

JIMMY

My jacket? I will call Bubba tomorrow. Cigarettes?

Jimmy pulls the cigarettes out of his back pocket, pauses. Dorothy steps back.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Thank you.

Jimmy unlocks the door and enters. Dorothy walks back home.

INT. DOROTHY HOME. SAME

Dorothy walks in with the plate to see Willy and Bradley asleep in front of the PHILCO 90. Gunsmoke plays.

Dorothy walks back into the living room, then picks up Willy and takes him to the Bed.

Dorothy returns to wake up Bradley, turns to see the Picture her and DANIEL, 22, in his Marine uniform on the side table by the couch.

INT. FLASHBACK. THE MAJESTIC THEATRE. 1939. NIGHT

Dorothy hands her ticket to the teller and walks in.

REBECCA JONES, 16, pushes her forward to see what is inside.

REBECCA

I said he would be here. Danny,
where are you?

Rebecca points to the blond twenty one year old BOMB shell DANIEL DAVIS, 19, with CHRISTY, 18, and JOHN DAVIES, 17, all who sit in the second row of the MAJESTIC.

They make eye contact.

DISSOLVE TO:

Dorothy sits in the back right corner with young ladies.

Dorothy looks up at the front row to Daniel as the war bonds film plays before the Wizard of OZ.

Daniel sits in the front of four rows filled with young patriotic men.

FADE TO:

JUDY GARLAND (O.S.)

Bye, Professor Marvel and thanks a
lot.

Dorothy looks to Daniel. Rebecca wide eyed, notices their attraction to one another.

THE PROFESSOR/WIZARD OF OZ (O.S.)

Better get under cover, Sylvester.
There's a storm blowing up a
whopper, to speak in the vernacular
of the peasantry. Poor little kid I
hope she gets home all right.

Dorothy smiles. One of the boys tugs Daniel to focus on the movie.

INT. THE YARD. DAY

Dorothy TAC welds the letters ECS on a tractor door. Buzzer rings throughout the yard. Dorothy walks with GINGER, 26, KIMBERLY, 32, and a few girls behind. Come to the Factory managers door.

GINGER

Billy, hurry the hell up. I need to get downtown before the bank closes. I have two kids and one needs braces. Damn he's ugly, god bless his soul.

MAE

We on for tonight?

GINGER

Seven. I still have to find a baby sitter.

DOROTHY

Bring'em.

GINGER

Oh, no honey. Two is enough. I am letting lose tonight. Need to find a sitter. Maybe, if I sleep with the Tanner boy, he would watch the kids this weekend. Take'em camping.

MAE, 24, from behind pokes head down the line.

MAE

(Possessive)

Hey, aren't you married?

GINGER

Sweetheart, there are many things a woman does not pay for in this world, sex is one of them.

Ginger turns to LADY BELL, 29, who is a few girls behind her. High five. BERRY YOKES, 44, hands the check to Ginger confused. Ginger puts her gum on Berry's desk and takes her check. Lady Bell snatches the check from Berry.

LADY BELL

I love these moments.

Struts off.

INT. EARL'S BARBER SHOP. DAY

Short modest black man with a black eye, EARL THOMAS, 54, trims Jimmy's hair. Barber Shop is filled with old pictures of World War I, including an All-American banner across the waiting chairs, and a picture of his squad in France (The 369th Harlem Hellfighters. A picture of the 369th band playing in Paris next the Barber shop band picture from last years 4th of July Festival are displayed above the tip jar.

EARL

Harris took down his for sale sign yesterday.

JIMMY DEACON

Earl, what happened to your eye?

EARL

We may be on the rebound. Maybe he and his old lady reconciled.

JIMMY DEACON

The eye, what happened?

Jimmy notices KEVIN TANNER, 17, pace back in forth in front of the MARINE recruitment office.

EARL

Hold it, Jimmy.

JIMMY DEACON

Hey what is Kevin doing?

EARL

Looks like he wants to be a Marine.

Earl snips. Loud commotion roles down the road in a old Ford Pick-up. Four girls drive by.

MAE (O.S.)

Hey, Kevin....

Kevin Tanner waves at the girls with sense of anxiety.

JIMMY DEACON

Boy better know what he is getting into.

ROBERT (O.S.)

Uh huh....

EARL

Well, looky here. Doesn't that
Davis woman live a few houses down
from you. She got gams.

ROBERT, 67, deep in the newspaper.

ROBERT (O.S.)

Uh huh..

EARL

You should say hello. She been
alone with those boys, since Danny
was killed at Iwo Jima. Those are
good boys, they need a man in there
life. Hold.

ROBERT (O.S.)

Uh huh....

Earl snips.

EARL

You need.

JIMMY

I need, I need, I need.

Jimmy pulls down the apron. Stands and puts a dollar in the
tip jar, the smiles at the pictures.

EARL

You need to stop drinking and find
a woman.

ROBERT (O.S.)

Uh huh.

JIMMY

How much?

EARL

One dollar and two for the hootch.

JIMMY

You coming over, Earl?

EARL

Me and my tram will be there at
eight.

Jimmy hands three dollars to Earl, grabs the bag with hootch
and walks to the door.

EARL (CONT'D)
You need a woman. Next.

Robert steps in the chair. Jimmy smiles and walks out.

EXT. THE ALLEY. COMMERCE STREET. DAY

Bradley stands out in front of the sidewalk.

His nervous nature grabs the attention of the two old men, GEORGE, 76, and BILL, 78, who sit out in front of the Wholesale store. Robert walks out of the barber shop. Earl steps out and turns to Bradley. Bradley shrugs and motions to the alley. Willy stands quiet across from HEATHER METZ, 9.

HEATHER
Well?

Willy takes the gum from his pocket and puts a piece in his mouth. He tilts his head back and offers a piece to Heather.

BRADLEY (O.S.)
Hurry up.

Heather closes her eyes. Willy squints and takes aim with his thumb. He moves in.

Willy walks around the corner chomping his gum with a smile. George stands and gives Willy a smirk, then sits.

EXT. DOROTHY'S PORCH. NIGHT

Dorothy, Bell, Ginger, and ladies sway to Billie Holiday on the porch. Mae rubs through Bradley's hair. Music plays.

BRADLEY
Well ladies. I hate to cut it short, but we and I have a very important engagement.

Bradley turns the radio off.

GINGER
Is she beautiful?

Willy steps up and opens the screen door for Bradley.

Bradley walks in.

GREGORY
She is Wilma.

Screen door slams and the door shuts.

WILLY (O.S.)
Keep'er quiet!

Dorothy hears a harmonica and the blues strings from behind the house.

Dorothy cracks a beer and walks to the back.

Down in the wood-line in the back of Jimmy's yard is he and Earl playing Blues and drinking from a mason jar around a small fire.

Jimmy plays, while Earl takes a break and drinks from the mason jar. His eyes light up to the women who walk by the fire.

Blues stop.

GINGER
Do not stop on our account, boys.

Dorothy smiles and Earl passes the Mason jar to Mae.

MAE
What is this?

EARL
Ladies, that is the finest shine
this side of the Mississippi. Now
slow down, baby.

Earl goes to grab the mason jar, when Ginger grabs it and takes a swig.

GINGER
Damn, no wonder my kid's hair so
crooked.

Jimmy smiles and plays on, occasionally looks up to the tight white T-shirt and the overalls tide around Dorothy's waist.

Women's hips sway to the blues.

FADE TO:

INT./EXT. DOROTHY'S ROOM. HOUSE. DAY

Dorothy stands in front of the mirror in her work uniform tying her blue bandana on her head.

DOROTHY

Bradley, you and your brother stay close to the house today. I will call at lunch. Do not open your lunches until I call, hear me.

Willy walks in.

WILLY

Mamma, can we head to the lake?

DOROTHY

No.

BRADLEY

Mom?

DOROTHY

You heard me. No radio until your chores are done, plus I saw your list from school. You need to get started on that paper. I will be home tonight to help you with the math.

BRADLEY

Mom, can we listen to the radio at three?

Car catches Dorothy's attention.

DOROTHY

No, I already told your brother. Stay here, boys.

Dorothy walks to the front porch. Dorothy walks out to her porch. Marine CHAPLAIN JAMISON's, 43, 1952 skyline with the Marine emblem, drives down to the end of the road. Everyone on LONE Street walks out to their porches to see where the Chaplain stops but JENNIFER SMITH, 24. TERRY SMITH, 9, plays on the porch.

Chaplain and GUNNERY SERGAENT TELLER, 32, approaches him.

JAMISON

Hello son.

TERRY

Are you from the Marines? My daddy is a Marine.

JAMISON

Yes. I am a Marine. Is your mother home? Can you go and fetch her, son.

Terry turns excited, and runs into the house.

TERRY

Mommy, the Marines are here.

JENNIFER (O.S.)

Tell them to leave. No, you are not supposed to be here.

JAMISON

Ma'am, I must speak with you. Miss Smith, this is Captain Jamison of the United States Marine Corpse, Chaplain services. Ma'am?

JENNIFER (O.S.)

Go.

Chaplain Jamison looks to little Terry, takes a deep breath, extends the letter to Little Terry.

JAMISON

Here, son. Please make sure your mother gets this.

Jamison puts his head down and walks to the car. Terry runs in with the letter. Screams come from the kitchen.

Chaplain, and Gunnery Sergeant stand by the car.

Terry walks out, sits on the porch and covers his face.

Jimmy slides the curtain to see the commotion, then walks out.

FADE TIME LAPSE:

Sun begins to set. Gunnery Sergeant and Captain wait.

Sun sets. Boy cries on the porch. Bradley and Willy walk to the front porch of Terry. Terry cries. Bradley and Willy comfort him. Gives a nod of approval to the Marines.

Chaplain's vehicle drives off in the distance.

People walk to the home of Jennifer. Porch fills up with support. Dorothy enters. Cries come from the kitchen.

Jimmy walks in his house.

INT. LONE STREET. NIGHT

Dorothy looks out of the front porch of Jimmy to see him deep in the bottle and music from his guitar. She walks out and down the street and on to Jimmy's porch.

Cries from Jennifer can be heard in the night.

DOROTHY

May I?

Jimmy motions a welcome.

DOROTHY (CONT'D)

He has been out there all night. Do you have a light? Merry got a litter last month. I wonder if he would like a puppy?

Jimmy lights her cigarette and looks over to see Terry who sits on the top step in silence.

JIMMY

That boy will just have to get over it. Looks like she will.

Jimmy grinds his grin, then looks at Dorothy.

DOROTHY

The bottle makes you bitter.

JIMMY

That boy is going to grow up and hate everything but the thing that took his father. They will call, and he will answer. That very same thing he loves will kill him, just like Richard. He had come home angry bitter and broken, anyway. Hell of a way of life, sides Brett's daddy owns the mill. Isn't that what you girls want?

DOROTHY

Can you just have heart? You are a mean drunk.

Jimmy looks over to Terry, grabs his guitar and sings DEAR JOHN for all on Lone street to hear. Dorothy walks off the porch. Jimmy stops and listens to the cries from Jennifer. Plays on.

INT./EXT. LONE STREET. LATE NIGHT

Jennifer awakens to a wooden ruckus. Jimmy smashes his guitar against the banister. Enters home.

FADE TO:

EXT. THE CEMETERY HILL. DAY

Humble dressed Baptist MINISTER JOHNSON, 62, stands in front of the Casket.

Jennifer stands beside her son. Marine Honor Guard lower the casket. Brett looks across to Jennifer with guilt. Walks away.

MINISTER JOHNSON (O.S.)

Richard went with the lord doing what he loved, being a loving father and husband. Eastland makes Marines, and America has went to war. For freedom, for peace. Let the Steward of this great county bring him home. Let us pray. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Jimmy sits at the bottom of the hill with a cigarette.

MINISTER JOHNSON(O.S.) (CONT'D)

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Brett walks next to Jimmy. Scorn sends Brett home.

MINISTER JOHNSON (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the Peacemakers.

Jennifer, Terry, and Gilbert. Next to Terry. Jennifer cries.

MINISTER JOHNSON (O.S.) (CONT'D)

For they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. AMEN

Jimmy enters his car and whistles. Leans his head back. Shots from the rifles make him jump.

Gilbert slowly takes the hand of Jennifer. Marine hands her the flag. Willy and Bradley walk down the hill beside their mother. Dorothy looks to Jimmy's car that kicks up dust in the distance.

INT./EXT. BARN HOUSE. DAY

Dusk rolls in on an old Barn VFW Barn house crafted for World War I Funeral receptions. Band plays.

World War One Veteran ALLEN HALE, 62, and his wife LEANNA HALE, 58, dance in the barn house.

Kids play in the fields out in the meadow. Mothers set up for the next game for prizes.

Crutches lean against the tree, as a young man sits on the picnic table.

Willy spins around the bat, then runs back to tap TERRY's hand. Terry runs, while the children cheer. Men sit around the picnic tables and drink.

Leanne walks over to the picnic table with a pickle Jar. Ladies drop a dollar in the jar and take a seat.

Ladies sit around Leanne as she looks to Allen.

LEANNA (O.S.)

He and I didn't speak for a week after he returned from France. He'd just sit out on the tractor and stare into the fields. Who knows what he was thinking. God knows what ever happened over there. I never asked what it was he was searching for. We don't ask those questions.

Allen sits in a rocking chair with a cane on watch.

LEANNA (CONT'D)

One day he put it in drive and left it behind him. Sometimes it returns, but we came to peace with it. We have to.

Leanne holds the large pickle jar. People walk up and put donations in the jar.

LEANNA (CONT'D)

It will take time. We have been at it for awhile now, ladies. It will all settle one day. They will all come home. God, I hope.

Jennifer sits in a black dress alone and watches Terry play.

Kids tend to Terry.

INT. BARN HOUSE. NIGHT

Ladies bring in the dirty dishes. Bradley washes and hands them to Willy.

Willy stands on a wooden crate and dries plates and puts them on a shelf.

BRADLEY

That lake has a five pounder.

Terry sits in a chair and watches the boys do dishes.

TERRY

Large or small mouth.

WILLY

It was a small mouth, but we ain't gonna see him again.

Jimmy walks in quietly.

TERRY

I never caught one with my dad. I hooked him, but my dad reeled him in. That was the last time I went fishing.

BRADLEY

We never went fishing with our dad. He left in Forty three.

WILLY

I was in my moms belly. Brad wasn't but about three. He died at Iwo Jima in Forty Five.

JIMMY (O.S.)

Your daddy was a good man.

Bradley turns to see Jimmy leaning against the entrance.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

He took me fishing when I was twelve. He just graduated that summer. He and a few boys invited me to go camping. We drove to Lake Cisco. Hell they took me everywhere after that night. I was so small. They were so big. Marines. He left for Camp Elliot that summer.

BRADLEY

Did you go to Elliot?

JIMMY

No, Parris Island.

Band begins to play *The West Texas Waltz*.

WILLY

Their back on. Lets go.

Willy puts up the last dish. Boys leave the kitchen.

Bell sings with the band. Ginger dances with Terry. Kim takes Willy's hand. Young boys find partners.

Bradley sees MINDY GRANGE, 13. She smiles. Bradley walks over. Dorothy smiles and sends a warm smile to Jimmy, as he plays the guitar. Band plays on.

Suns sets in the west to a RED AND BLUE MARINE TWILIGHT.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

EXT. VALLEY BEFORE THE HILL. NIGHT

Jimmy awakens in the night to the sound of footsteps from across the valley. Tries to treat mangled leg. Moans. Moans help. Hears shuffle noise in the dark. Approach. Recovers composure.

Chinese regular run across the road and back up the hill. Twenty Chinese regulars follow, except one who moves close to Jimmy. Jimmy Plays dead.

YIN, 23, grabs Gunny James mangled body. Looks over to Jimmy. Studies. Slowly walks over, then takes Jimmy and puts him over to conceal his sniper position.

English speaking men in the distance headed to the road.

Yin takes aim, pulls back his bolt and quietly charges it forward. Yin slowly waits. Voices and scatter of brush get louder. Yin slowly puts his finger on the trigger. Jimmy's eyes open over Yin.

Struggle in the ditch. Kay-bar raises and violently comes down.

U.S. Army Personal, slowly move on the road. Jimmy raises his hand out of the ditch.

JIMMY (O.S.)
American Marine.

CORPORAL LEWIS, 21, low crawls over to the raised hand of Jimmy.

CORPORAL LEWIS
Hey Captain, we have a wounded
Marine here.

Rain begins to pour. Hand drops.

EXT. HILL BEFORE THE DAMN. DAY

Bradley, Willy, Gregory run up a wet and muddy hill. Bradley pulls ahead. Gregory slightly behind. Willy's boots slide in the slippery mud. Falls behind.

Bradley sees the top. Looks back to Gregory. They climb harder. Rain pours heavy. Bombs are going off.

Men fall down, as Bradley yells. Rounds zip overhead. Get near top. Gregory looks back.

Gregory and Bradley look to one another. Turn around. No war, nor rain.

Willy is stuck soaked to the bone. Shrugs. Return down hill and help Willy up.

INT. BAPTIST CHURCH. DAY

Apache Plumes blow in the wind. Rain falls.

Dorothy stands in a beautiful flower dress, front row with Willy. Bradley stands two rows back with Mindy and her family.

Ginger stands behind with her Daughter CHRISTY, 4, husband JACK, 32.

Sing BYE and BYE.

Dorothy looks out at the rain pour down outside the window.

FADE TO:

INT. FLASHBACK. BAPTIST CHURCH. DAY

Gilbert stands at the end of the isle. Whispers back.

GILBERT

Where the hell are they?

Dorothy, 19, shrugs as she struggles to dawn her gown.

DOROTHY

I don't know.

(To self)

Ginger, you better not be late.

Ginger slides in with Jack's TUX jacket over her head. Ginger and Jack kiss.

GINGER

(Whispers)

Sorry, baby.

Ginger puts on her dress.

Jack tries to sneak around up to a quiet seat. Jack adjusts his tie and hurries down the isle.

Ginger falls in front of the Flower Maids. Nods to Dorothy.

GINGER (CONT'D)
 (Whisper)
 You ready?

Minister Johnson looks to Gilbert.

Gilbert gives him a thumbs up. Leans back.

GILBERT
 Here we go.

Dorothy nervously nods yes. Music plays as Dorothy turns the corner and walks the isle with her father.

Daniel stands front and center in his Marine dress Uniform ready to receive Dorothy.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BAPTIST CHURCH. TWO YEARS LATER. DAY

Gilbert's smile turns fades to serious concern as he leads Dorothy in Black Mourning dress.

Dorothy approaches Daniel's casket. Daniel is dressed in his Marine Uniform.

Dorothy closes in on a half opened casket with shock.

Sun shines through the glass above the cross.

Bell rings.

FADE TO:

EXT. BAPTIST CHURCH. DAY

Minister Johnson stands outside at the door to shake hands.

Gregory runs out to The 1953 Chevy Bel Air with little CHRISTY, 6.

Willy walks out with Dorothy and Bradley.

BRADLEY
 It's a new spot.

GREGORY
 Meet me behind the warehouse. Dad,
 where are my boots?

JACK

Boy, you need to get yourself organized. I threw them in the garage. They smell something fierce. You know where they go when your done.

CHRISTY

Can I go?

GREGORY AND BRADLEY

No.

GREGORY

You have line?

BRADLEY

Five pound. No lures, just spinners.

WILLY

Bring your Zebco. We are going under the brush.

Bradley takes his tie off.

EXT. LONE STREET. JIMMY'S PORCH. DAY

Jimmy sits with and empty Southern Comfort bottle and a beer. Cars trickle home from church. Jimmy sees Dorothy, and tries to hide his shame. Dorothy drives by.

Willy looks at Jimmy with a half grin.

BRADLEY

Good afternoon, Mr. Deacon.

Car passes. Jimmy looks to his empty bottle for comfort. Dorothy pulls in the driveway. Boys run out of the car and into the house. Dorothy stops. Turns. Frustrated.

Jimmy drunk on the rocking chair. Shamefully looks away. Willy and Bradley run out with fishing poles and a tackle box.

BRADLEY (CONT'D)

Bye, Momma.

DOROTHY

Be home by Dinner.

Dorothy walks back into the house.

INT. DOROTHY'S HOME. DAY

Dorothy walks into the house, and sits in her chair.

She looks over to the PICTURE.

EXT. TRAIN STATION. 1943. NIGHT

DANIEL DAVIS, 21, dressed in Marine dress green uniform, kneels before the swollen belly of DOROTHY DAVIS, 17, who wears the same beautiful flower dress with hair wrapped in a yellow ribbon.

Gregory, 1, lies in a basket. Daniel sits his duffle bag down. Puts his finger in the basket.

DANIEL

Gregory, your daddy must go
somewhere to protect your Brother,
Mommy and you.

Turns to Dorothy's belly.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Willy, I will see you when I get
home. Do not grow up too fast,
okay.

Daniel kisses Dorothy's belly and stands.

DOROTHY

(Anxiety)
Oh baby I can't do this.
(Desperate crying squeal)
Come home, baby.

DANIEL

I will get home. When I get to the
islands I will write. If it
frightens you, do not put it up.

Train horn blows.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Well? Please say it baby.

DOROTHY

I will be okay, baby.

DANIEL

No words, no songs, no ribbons,
nobody can show their love for you
like yours truly, Mrs. Davis.

Dorothy and Daniel kiss. Train horn blows. Turns wheels.
Slowly moves forward.

Daniel grabs his bag. Back peddles to the door. Grabs rail.
Waves goodbye.

DOROTHY

Come home.

Train gains distance from the worry of Dorothy and the
carriage. The guitar plays.

FADE TO:

EXT. TRAIN TRACKS. DAY

Train horn blows as the dings at the crossing. Train moves
across the tracks. Train roles by.

Willy, Bradley, Gregory, and Terry walk across with fishing
poles and a tackle box down a path in front of a new damn.

BRADLY

Let's go, Hey do you see how Mr.
Deacon looks at mom?

WILLY

He still has that Marine courtesy
swimming around in his demeanor.

They come on an fork. Bradley stops and looks to the clouds.

TERRY

Swimming around in his nuts. He
wants to bang her.

Bradley stops. Points to the clouds. Boys stop.

BRADLEY

See that.

GREGORY

What?

BRADLEY

The clouds role slowly and cover
the sun.

WILLY

Cumulus.

BRADLEY

Keeps the water cool and brings
eem out.

They walk to the fork.

GREGORY

Follow me. Listen the trail has a
fork, do not go alone and....

Gregory heads left down the left fork guided by trees and a steady road of gravel. Fence line on the left surrounds the damn. Water slowly t trickles down the filter underneath. Large forty foot high brick wall on each side. Peddles scattered at the end of the head.

WILLY

Take this path. Leads to a real sweet spot. Crappie, sunfish, and Rupert. The sweetest Small mouth in Texas. Left path leads to a thin path to the damn with a high wall, Poison Oak, peddles, bottom feeders and snags all day. Brad got it on his balls last year.

GREGORY

Poison Oak?

BRADLEY

No, a snag.

WILLY

He chased me home with a switch, we do not talk about it much anymore.

BRADLEY

(Stern)

Yeah, take the right path, and always look back when you cast.

WILLY

(Stern)

Go right.

Terry smiles as they come to the right path by the lake. They go right.

TERRY

(Apologetic)

Hey guys, can I stay at your place tonight?

BRADLEY

Sure, I will ask my mom.

Bradley grabs the bottom fence line and lifts. Willy slides under. Grabs tackle box. Gregory grabs it for bradley and Terry.

WILLY

We would love to have yuh, Terry.

Gregory looks to the broken fence on the left fork of the road as he lifts the fence line.

EXT. FLEA MARKET. DAY

Dorothy walks the market line. Mrs. Martinez booth is full of apples.

Dorothy opens here bag.

Mrs. Martinez puts apples in her bag. Looks over to Jimmy's booth. Ponders for the right *midiclimate* conversation.

Jimmy sits a few booths down in full surplus. Hung-over. Dorothy slowly approaches. Ponders.

DOROTHY

Did you have fun last night?

Jimmy looks left. Looks right. Stubborn.

JIMMY DEACON

Maybe. What's it to you?

DOROTHY

You and your Cronies from the Barber shop played a whole composition to wee hours in the morning. What did they call name it? Everybody wake the hell up.

JIMMY DEACON

No, Mind your own damn business.

DOROTHY

Well maybe next time you may want to remember there are families who have early morning lives that they must attend to. Anyway, do think you guys have a chance this year?

JIMMY DEACON

Move along, move along, wait?

Extends hand.

Dorothy takes an apple from the bag and throws at Jimmy.

JIMMY DEACON (CONT'D)
New York delicious. Where did you
get this?

DOROTHY
Mrs. Martinez.

Mrs. Martinez smiles.

JIMMY DEACON
Gracias, Senora Martinez.

MRS. MARTINEZ
Buenos dias, senor Deacon.

Jimmy takes an arrogant bite.

DOROTHY
What is that?

Points to the box on the shelf in the back.

JIMMY DEACON
That is a genuine Stetson a with
certificate of authenticity. Twenty
Nine dollars.

DOROTHY
Can you hold it for me, just until
I save. It is for my boy.

JIMMY DEACON
I guess I can do that.

DOROTHY
Thank you, Mr. Deacon.

Dorothy smiles and walks along.

INT. JIMMY'S HOUSE. DAY

Knock at the door. Jimmy walks to the door.

Mail man hands Jimmy a letter. Jimmy opens and reads.

LAUNDRY'S MOM (V.O.)

Dear Mr. Deacon,
 I was just recently told in my son's last moments there was a survivor. My boy told me many stories about the war, but I was never given the accounts of his final moments. If you could please a tell me. I would be truly grateful. It warms my heart to know there was someone there to see him in his last moments. Did he speak of his family? Did he give glory to god? Please give the accounts so I can share them. I know the war has brung a great pain to our hearts but a few words would be helpful and bring a heartfelt conclusion to a mothers sorrows.

Gratefully yours,
 Thelma Laundry

Jimmy sits at the kitchen table. Grabs a blank piece of paper. Tries to write.

JIMMY DEACON

God damnit, Laundry.

Looks for the bottle. No bottle.

INT. PIGGLY WIGGLY. NIGHT

Dorothy walks down an isle in overalls and a Bandanna over her hair. Pulls can beans from the shelf.

Stands in line at the register. Jimmy stands in front with a fifth of Whiskey. Dorothy takes a gander. Jimmy turns drunk and angry. Gives cash and walks away.

EXT./INT. GINGER'S. NIGHT

Jack runs out of the house from the commotion from women that sends him to his car with one boot in hand. Women scream him away.

Cards lower as Mae's eyes search with serious resolve.

Dorothy drops her cards.

DORATHY

I fold.

Lady bell. Serious. Drops cards.

LADY BELL
Not my night.

Dorothy and Lady Bell across from one another. Lady stairs left. Dorothy stairs right.

Mae looks at cards. Looks at Ginger. Eyes stay firm.

Ginger chews gum like she has something special.

DORATHY
Well?

MAE/GINGER (O.S.)
Stay out of it.

Ginger smiles. Leans back. Lays down cards. Six of spades, Eight of clubs. Ace Of Diamonds, seven of hearts and five of spades.

DORATHY
What?

Mae laughs uncontrollably. Tilts back head then shifts down serious.

Lays down cards. Ten of hearts, Jack of hearts, two of hearts, four of hearts, and jack of spades.

LADY BELL
What the hell? I lost to that shit?

Mae grabs the chips from center. Ginger puts her hand over to stop her from the take.

GINGER
Aces high. The purse belongs to me.

LADY BELL
It is a draw. It is a damn draw.

Tug of war on table. Dorothy stands.

DOROTHY
(Perturbed)
I have three bags of groceries in the car and two boys waiting at home. I for one am too tired to sort this game out, while you ladies wrangle over shit. You girls have a good night.

Dorothy walks to the door.

Lady looks at both ladies in a tight mental quarrel with their eyes.

LADY BELL
Wait, I need a ride home.

DOROTHY (O.S.)
Hurry the hell up.

Lady stands and runs out.

Mae and Ginger still hold on to chips.

MAE
I need a beer.

GINGER
It is in the fridge. Second shelf.

Mae presents an evil smile.

EXT./INT. LONE STREET. DOROTHYS FRONT PORCH. NIGHT

Willy sharpens forks from a branch. Bradley casts with a sinker. Reels in. Car pulls in.

Dorothy steps out of the car.

DOROTHY
Come help your mother.

Boys help with groceries. Walk into house.

Dorothy puts away groceries.

EXT./INT. LONE STREET. JIMMY'S BACK PORCH. SAME

Earl exits from the wood-line and sets up around the old fireplace. No Fire.

Starts a fire. Sees Guitar smashed in the bushes.

EARL
Hey, hey, hey. Looky here.

He lays down the Mason Jars, and sets his Tram on the stool. Sits the pig feet behind the log stool, grabs guitar and turns.

Screen door open and the kitchen is ransacked.

Earl walks around to the front. Jimmy is drunk. His angry silence sends a concern to Earl.

EARL (CONT'D)

Jimmy, I brought charcoal fluid. I need to get her started. Got a jar of pickled feet. Jimmy? I will check behind the trash can. Jimmy, are we okay?

Lays broken guitar down.

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

Dorothy folds clothes on the couch. Places clothes in the hamper.

Boys lay in front of the RADIO: *Jack Benny Program Show, A Gondola in Venice.*

EXT. BACKYARD. FIRE. NIGHT

Earl finishes Walk that lonesome Valley. Treeline creates a dark shadow looming over the back yard.

Coles crack on the fire.

Earl Twists the jar of pickled eggs.

EARL

Last week Merle was trying to wager with the Volunteers. I had to decline. His wife is going to kill him if he loses again. I am double booked, but can't afford that. The fair will hold and we should receive a nice purse from the show, you think? Since the Majestic closed, I had to charge an extra quarter for a trim. Hurts the whole town. Hell, Jimmy.

Earl looks up to see Jimmy's distant anger.

EARL (CONT'D)

Jimmy? I see tonight is not the night.

JIMMY DEACON

The fuckin dogs ate'em. What do they want from me? They asked and yes I fucking killed.

(MORE)

JIMMY DEACON (CONT'D)

I pushed the blade into his neck.
Watched him cry for help. Nobody
was going help him that night. It
was just him and me.

Jimmy looks at Earl. Eye to eye. Rage.

Earl slowly slides tram into his back pocket. Looks around.
Cautiously grabs his things.

EARL

I am going to go now, Jimmy. I will
just leave this here. You go about
your business, Okay. Bye, Jimmy.

Earl slowly heads into the wood-line.

INT./EXT. LONE STREET. BACK YARD. NIGHT

Dorothy awakens to the braking of a mason jar from a drunken
commotion coming from Jimmy fs back yard.

JIMMY DEACON (O.S.)

You want me. Come, take me.

Yin's shadow moves in the wood-line. Jimmy staggers before
the shadow of Yin in the wood-line.

JIMMY DEACON (CONT'D)

What was I to you? You would have.
You killed them all. I had to. You
chose me. I killed you. You killed
me. What now?

Jimmy goes to throw his bottle at the shadow. The step with
his bad leg collapses. Sends him to the ground. Broken.

Dorothy watches Jimmy lay on the ground.

JIMMY DEACON (CONT FD) (CONT'D)

I had to get home.

Dorothy turns to see here two sons. Boys look on with a
mature understanding from the bedroom window.

EXT. JIMMY'S BACKYARD. DAY

Texas sun shines on Jimmy. Awakens to the screen door slam.
Head pounds.

Two houses down, Jennifer walks out of her back yard with
trash in hand and drops it in the can.

TERRY (O.S.)
 Mom, Have you seen my mitt?

JENNIFER
 In the Living room closet. In the
 box on the first shelf.

Jennifer drops the trash in the can, turns to Jimmy.

TERRY (O.S.)
 I can not find it.

JENNIFER
 You going to get up, or just lay
 there and die. I am coming.

Jennifer drops the trash in the can and heads in the house.

Jimmy wakes up, stands and limps to the door.

EXT. EARLS BARBER SHOP. SAME

Earl takes the bib off old man. Shakes it.

EARL
 Your next, Jimmy.

Jimmy sits in the chair. Angry. Distant. Half drunk. Steps
 in. Earl turns his head from the smell of whiskey. Earl
 begins the trim.

JIMMY DEACON
 When where you going to tell me?

EARL
 Who told you?

JIMMY DEACON
 Milton.

EARL
 I have to, Jimmy. I will be closing
 her down by fall. I am sorry. I
 know I should have told you. I can
 not keep the shop open.

JIMMY DEACON
 God damn it, Earl. What this town
 ever do to you?

EARL
 I did not want to put my shop up
 for sell.

(MORE)

EARL (CONT'D)

Do you think I am going to stick and watch you fall apart, while another white officer punches my front light out, because he is having a bad white day? You don't know how I have been trying to see the better side of this life, this town and what it means to me. Just for the record, boy. You ain't the only one who has to struggle with the past. I fought just like you. You think it was easy coming home? We served just as hard as those white boys did, just to come home and play for them while they to victory in the streets. Couldn't join in because lets just face it. It wasn't our victory now was it. Just play a good song Nigger boy and be grateful your free. Free?

JIMMY DEACON

You are just going to leave me alone. What about the band? What about the Fair?

EARL

Band? Fair? Look at you. This early? You've been a sloppy damn mess since the day you came home. Damn that war made you bitter. When was the last time love meant something to you? Give up that damn bottle settle the hell down, boy? No woman is going to want some washed up drunken gimpy who hangs on to a forgotten war.

JIMMY DEACON

What the hell got into you?

Jimmy's disarmed with guilt.

EARL

I will stay and play. I didn't want to leave. The town is shutting down, Jimmy. Not enough families to keep here going anymore. Let's go. The boys are playing ball.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD. DAY

Bradley hits a single past the short stop into left center field, and runs to second base, yet Ginger halts him at second base.

Earl and Jimmy sit in the stands. Earl extends his bag of peanuts to Jimmy. Jimmy, reluctant takes a few.

Girls in the bleachers stand and cheer.

Boys stand.

Gregory warms up and releases the donut from the bat, then walks to the plate.

Willy looks at Jimmy in the stands. Stern. Hope.

WILLY

This is it.

Willy attempts to pass the first base coach, Ginger, yet her hand stops Willy from crossing past the line.

Gregory walks to the plate with bat. Ladies stand, and cheer.

Young boy takes a serious look at the catcher, and waves him off, then settles for a fast ball. He winds and delivers.

Crack of the bat leaves no one sitting in the stands.

Jimmy notices KEVIN TANNER, 17, raise his right hand in the Marine recruiting office.

Dorothy looks at Kevin. Looks at Jimmy. Shakes her head.

EXT. PORCH. NIGHT

Dorothy, Ginger, Mae, and Lady Bell sit on the porch with dirty Baseball shirts and beers.

Ginger leans on the rest with one leg up, as Dorothy rocks on the porch swing.

Lady Bell sits at the steps and looks to Jimmy's porch.

DOROTHY

You think they are going to close her down?

MAE

They say the whole town is in a bind.

GINGER

Yes, but I am not going to sit around and cry about it. Hey, I have been thinking. There is a garage at the end of town, Lester let it go, but if we put a little work into it, I bet she can be up and running by May.

DOROTHY

What do you mean?

GINGER

Girls, we been fabricating since our boys left eight years ago. We bend, stretch, tak, and mig any piece of metal on god's green earth. We are the best fabricators in the county, they know this. I have been fixing cars since, hell, Thirty Seven. What do you say? Follow my lead, ladies?

MAE

Yes, but who is going to pull up and ask a garage full of women to fix there love and joy?

GINGER

Everyone.

Mae, Bell, Dorothy, and Ginger close in. Toast their beers.

DOROTHY

Everyone.

GINGER

Mae, I got to ask. Why you keep eyeing the Tanner boy.

MAE

He is almost there.

DOROTHY

That Pie can get you in trouble.

MAE

I don't care. Every time I see him my titties get hard.

DOROTHY

Mae...?

LADY BELL (O.S.)
Hey, what is up with Jimmy?

DOROTHY
Why?

LADY BELL
Just wandering.

GINGER
What I think Dorothy is saying is
Why are you trying to piss on her
tree.

Mae spits out her beer, while trying not to laugh.

Lady Bell walks over and sits beside.

LADY BELL
Baby, I am not trying to take
anything away from you, but if you
don't move soon, some young gal
may find it in her heart to let him
in. Hell it's been....

GINGER
Bell. Look, she is right, D. You
better move. What ever happened to
Jimmy? Nobody ever talked about him
or the leg, or anything? He just
came home quietly. No parade,
nothing. Earl said he saved a
platoon of G.I.s in the big
offensive of fifty-one during
Christmas. He even killed....

DOROTHY
He had to get home.

Dorothy slides back with her beer, as Ginger stares at her.

Bradley, Gregory, Willy and Terry who re-enact GUNSMOKE in
the house.

DOROTHY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Boys, settle down.

INT. JIMMY'S HOME. SAME

Jimmy turns on the radio. Looks at the half empty whiskey
bottle on the coffee table. Reaches. News bulletin breaks his
attempt.

Focuses on Panmunjomand Munsan, Korea Broadcasts.

BROADCAST (O.C.)

In order to insure the peaceful settlement of the Korean question, the military. Commanders of both sides hereby recommend to the governments of the countries concerned on both sides that, within three months after the Armistice Agreement is signed and becomes effective. Ladies and Gentlemen The Korean War has officially ended.

Jimmy stands. Walks into the bedroom.

Ladies watch head lights come down the road.

MAE

What have we here?

Cars lights pull into Jennifer's driveway.

Brett grabs a his pint of whiskey and walks to Jennifer's door. Jimmy walks out with his shotgun and fires it in the air. Ladies startled. Porch lights turn on down the road. People walk out on their porches.

JIMMY

It's over.

Jimmy looks to Brett, who pulls up his suspenders on the porch down.

Dorothy walks out and looks around followed by Willy, Bradley and Terry. Jimmy stares down Brett. Brett turns. Gets into his car. Drives off. Terry goes back into the house.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

It's over.

Jimmy walks back into the house. Neighborhood looks on. Bret's car turns. Tires squeal. Dorothy looks on.

Jimmy takes the bottle. Ponders. Tosses bottle in the trash.

EXT. EASTLAND COUNTY HALL. DAY

Mallet pounds the podium.

Sheriff BUFORD TAYLOR, 45, stands with mallet in hand at the podium. Property owners of Main Street sit, take notes.

SHERIFF BUFORD TAYLOR
Mayor BRADFORD has set aside
appropriated funds for this years
County Fair, now, I do recall,
Marshal Winston has requested that
venders who need permits for this
event to send him the request forms
one week out. Memphis has already
sent theirs.

Mayor LOUIS BRADFORD, 64, holds the slips up.

SHERIFF BUFORD TAYLOR (CONT'D)
The local Fire department, Deputy
Tully and I have volunteered our
services and will be handling the
stage assembly, although we are
expecting volunteers for the tear
down and clean up. Anybody?

Everyone looks away.

SHERIFF BUFORD TAYLOR (CONT'D)
Hm. Parking is limited, so no
favors. The blockades will be at
each end, isolating town square.
The Majestic has been closed, so
bands will set up and store their
things behind the Gazebo, faring
weather. Mayor?

MAYOR BRADFORD
Unfortunately, once again there
will be no fireworks, due to lack
of participation and funding. Maybe
one day this town will not be
called upon by our great nation.
Looks like to storm has passed and
time will serve Eastland a peaceful
hand. The Cook-off. Off the record.
We have been stretched thin, so
please do help make the County Fair
eventful for the children, god
knows they need it. Now, for the
record. The cook off has been our
Achilles heel. Memphis has swung
down here and beat us for the past
four years. I do advise we try to
keep the trophy in Texas. Our Texas
pride seems to slip right up to
Tennessee every year, and we can
not have that. What have we here?

Mayor Bradford looks out to the *1948 Pontiac Torpedo* down main street. He takes a closer look.

MAYOR BRADFORD (CONT'D)
Oh boy. Hell has arrived from
Austin.

The crowd stands and looks at the Mayor, then to the window.

EARL
Birdie.

Earl smiles.

INT. CAR. SAME

INGRAM BIRDIE JOHNSON, 57, takes a right turn, squeals the tires. *BEELINES* for LONE Street.

EXT. FLEA MARKET. DAY

Dorothy walks with Bradley and Willy down the Market. Dorothy Jimmy. Swaggers with her sons. They stop at EDNA HERNANDEZ'S, 43, stand.

DOROTHY
Good afternoon, Edna.

Dorothy hands a sack to Edna.

EDNA
How many?

DOROTHY
Twelve.

Edna fills the sack with corn. Dorothy looks down at the end of the Market.

Jimmy is set up with an old SURPLUS collection from World War II & Korean War. Edna hands the sack to Bradley.

BRADLEY
Thanks Mrs. Hernandez.

DOROTHY
Thanks, Edna.

Dorothy leads the boys to Jimmy's stand.

JIMMY DEACON
Well, hello.

DOROTHY

What kind of pocket knife would you recommend? Fishing mostly.

Jimmy opens a wooden box from display.

JIMMY DEACON

What we have here is a George Wostenholm Whittler knife. Perfect for fishing. Smooth edge, great for storing in your back pocket. I will throw a wet stone in it for free. Three dollars.

Dorothy notices a wooden box with a J engraved.

DOROTHY

And that one. J.

JIMMY DEACON

The Judson? That is Two-fifty.

Bradley points to the K-bar on table. No tag.

WILLY

K-bar. Marine issue. Here, boys.

Jimmy pulls a Marine poster and hands it to Willy.

JIMMY DEACON

Your not ready for that, boy. This Wostenholm is your best bet for the fish in the lake.

Dorothy smiles. Jimmy tutors.

JIMMY DEACON (CONT'D)

This is good for line cutting. You get a snag. Now it does not lock, so be careful.

EXT. FRONT PORCH. DAY

Birdie sits on the front porch.

Dorothy pulls into the drive-way.

BIRDIE

I have been sitting here for two hours. Where the hell did you hide the spare key?

DOROTHY
I mailed it to daddy.

Willy and Bradley step out of the car and hug Birdie.

WILLY
Grandma.

BIRDIE
William. Role your pant legs down.

Willy and Birdie embrace. Willy runs in the house.

BRADLEY
Grandma.

Bradley hugs Birdie.

BIRDIE
Bradley. Dorothy, your father sends
his love.

Bradley walks in the house.

DOROTHY
Mother, How long?

Birdie pause.

BIRDIE
Well? Your father will be here next
week, now I do advise we get this
home in order. Your father will not
tolerate a messy accommodation.
That is why I came early.

DOROTHY
Two weeks?

Birdie unlocks the trunk. Trunk opens. Trunk full of
groceries.

BIRDIE
What? Are you going to turn your
poor mother away. I did not come
for you. I came for them.

Birdie presents a firm smile, waits and roles eyes.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)
Who rightfully deserve a butt
whoopin if they do not stop what
they are doing and come out here
and help.
(MORE)

BIRDIE (CONT'D)

You could use the break, plus your father has been driving me crazy. I could use a week off before he arrives. You could use the help. Boys.

DOROTHY

Mom? Where is?

Bradley

Coming Grandma.

DOROTHY

Mom?

BIRDIE

Do not complain upon my generosity.

DOROTHY

Where is the Delux? How is daddy getting here? Did you tell him?

BRADLEY

Is Grandpa bringing his pole?

BIRDIE

I would call him, but this house better be spotless, by the time he arrives. God knows what hell he is gonna bring.

DOROTHY

Oh Lordy.

BIRDIE

When he gets here and we all settle down, I have a proposition to declare. Someone turns thirteen soon. We will get him something nice.

Birdie hands a bag of groceries to Bradley.

BRADLEY

Yes, Ma'am.

Bradley takes bag into the house. Willy stands.

BIRDIE

Those are the rules. Well?

DOROTHY

You took it, without telling.

BIRDIE
Lets go inside.

EXT. TEXAS HIGHWAY. NIGHT

Dark call brings a horrendous noise from the engine of the TORPEDO. Torpedo swifts down the Texas line.

INT. TOWN SQUARE. DAY

American Flag ripples in the wind. Mayor Bradford walks the counsel through the town square.

MAYOR BRADFORD
We will set up the cook-off here.
Far enough away from the stage but
not too far, if you know what I
mean. All shops will close by noon.
Sheriff?

SHERIFF BUFORD TAYLOR
Clean up your trash. Wait. Wait.
Move.

Group moves out of the road. 1938 Master Delux, drives down the road. Smoke from radiator.

Earl laughs.

INT. CAR

GILBERT G. JOHNSON, 62, drives.

GILBERT
That woman has the nerve. If I
don't make it, she don't make it.

Car turns. Tires squeal. Muffler pops.

EXT./INT. JIMMY'S HOME. DAY

Humming birds feed on the feeder.

Jimmy takes his pants down. Looks at his mangled leg. Takes brace off.

Conducts light squats.

INT. DOROTHY. HOME

Dorothy washes dishes. Explosion from the Deluxe. Dorothy sighs.

DOROTHY

Mother, father is here. I will take the Torpedo. The boys and I are going to get ice cream.

GILBERT (O.S.)

Had I known you would have taken my soul and driven it into hell with shackles, I would have never have walked into the church that day. No, I would have burnt the damn chapel to the ground, with you in it.

Gilbert steps out of the Car.

DOROTHY

And you didn't, daddy.

Gilbert stands. Confused.

GILBERT

How do you do it? Dorothy, boys. Woman get out here.

Birdie walks out to the porch. Dorothy, Bradley, and William get into the Deluxe.

BIRDIE

Now do not go and wager our love to some metal shit can that has made you feel twenty years younger. That car has no memory. The Deluxe had no gas.

GILBERT

That Deluxe had nothing left. I damn near coasted into the damn driveway.

BIRDIE

We made love in that car.

DOROTHY

Oh, Lordy, Boys.

Dorothy, Bradley, and William get out of the Deluxe. Get in Torpedo and drive off.

Gilbert closes in.

GILBERT

Damn it, Birdie, I nearly died on the hot plains of Texas, and you give me memory. Give me something.

BIRDIE

I did not like the ride. It felt, guilty.

GILBERT

Birdie?

Birdie closes in.

BIRDIE

What do you want me to say? I enjoyed the suspension. The air thangy majiggy that made me freeze all the way here. Okay?

Birdie softly kisses Gilbert.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)

GILBERT

Had I known.

DOROTHY

Had you known, You would have not complained.

Gilbert stands. Confused. Birdie walks inside the house.

GILBERT

What is for dinner?

BIRDIE (O.S.)

I do not know. Your daughter will not let me cook in her house. Ask her.

Gilbert turns to no Torpedo. Deluxe blocks driveway.

INT. REX'S OFFICE. DAY

Rex sits at his desk, as the ladies enter.

REX

Well, I do not know how to say this.

(MORE)

REX (CONT'D)

If I offend you for what I am about to say, please understand these days have taken their toll, and odd times ask for awkward moments. Hell, I can not believe I am about to send women back to the Kitchen.

GINGER

(Interrupts)

Rex.

Ginger walks over to Rex and kisses him on the cheek, and places her gum on his desk.

GINGER (CONT'D)

Thank you, baby.

Ginger walks out, while Dorothy smiles and follows.

Lady Bell walks over to take a mint.

LADY BELL

I love these moments.

Lady Bell struts out of the office.

INT. THE GARAGE. DAY

Jack unlocks the Garage door, and opens.

Ginger, Christy and Jack stand before a dusty old garage with much work ahead. Christy coughs, as the ladies trickle in and inspect the garage.

GINGER

We are going to make it work.

JACK

God I pray, Ginger.

Ginger kisses Jack.

GINGER

Baby, trust me and the girls. Go.

Jack hesitates, as he walks to his car.

Ginger turns to the girls.

GINGER (CONT'D)

Let us get to work.

INT./EXT. CHURCH. DAY

Gilbert sits next to Minister Johnson.

GILBERT
Well Gilbert.

MINISTER JOHNSON
Well Gilbert.

GILBERT
It is about full.

MINISTER JOHNSON
Yes it is. You want to ring the
bell?

GILBERT
Why sure.

Gilbert attempts to ring the bell.

Both stand as smoke and dust from Jimmy's old Chevy pours
down the old church road.

MINISTER JOHNSON
Wait.

Jimmy slides into a parking spot and walks to the entrance.

JIMMY DEACON
You have room for one more?

MINISTER JOHNSON
Yes we do, Son.

GILBERT
Your just in time.

Minister Johnson walks Jimmy into the church.

Gilbert rings the bell, while he shakes his head up to the
Texas sky.

MINISTER JOHNSON
Praise the Lord.

Minister Johnson enters church and closes doors.

Church looks back at Jimmy.

JIMMY DEACON

I do not want to make seen, I will
just sit in the back. Right here if
it okay with you?

Dorothy looks back at her father, Minister Johnson, and Jimmy
walk in.

Gregory turns to Willy.

GREGORY

It is about damn time.

Ginger smacks Gregory.

Jimmy slides into an empty space in the back.

Jimmy looks down and picks up the King James Bible, and nods
to the church.

The sermon begins.

INT. CHURCH. DAY

Father leans over in serious focus as Minister Johnson gives
sermon. Spits in can. One eye focus.

FADE TO:

EXT. /INT. CHURCH. DAY

Dust falls from the rafters under the foundations of the
church.

TILT UP:

Feet stomp on the floor as gJesus is real to me h is sung
throughout the church.

Preacher Gilberts wife, GRETA, 58, sings with soul.

Black and white choir sing.

Father drops hands and begins to cry. Mother holds him.

FADE TO:

EXT. CANOE. LAKE. DAY

Boat drifts across the lake, while Gilbert paddles. A prism
shines off the lake and into the clouds in the sky.

GILBERT

Look up there you see that. That is an arc, or a bow as you have it. You see god sends it to us to remind us he is watching and loves us. He gave it to Abraham, Moses, David, and it was born unto Jesus Christ. We send it back to let him know where here and listening to his word, because if we don't, he just may come looking for us to see where we are.

Gilbert stops rowing and grabs the string from the pole and a lure.

GILBERT (CONT'D)

This as good as any. Hand me that. Now pay attention, boys.

Gilbert slides the string through the hole.

GILBERT (CONT'D)

Tie a loose overhand knot. Pass the hook through the little loop here. Finish her snug, and swing the loop. Strong and reliable. That should do her.

Gilbert swings the loop and pulls tight.

GILBERT (CONT'D)

Palomar. Here you go, William.

Willy takes the Lure from Gilbert.

BRADLEY

Grandpa, What is a Palomar?

GILBERT

A knot, now when you cast make sure angle it right, and don't make a splash.

Bradley side casts slowly and the lure drops in the water.

RUPERT, 2, A Five Pound Small mouth turns towards the shiny lure, that spins in the water.)

Willy sees a shadow approach.

WILLY

(Whispers)

Hey, look right there. Look.

GILBERT
Slow'er down, son. Bring it up to
the light.

WILLY
Make her shine.

Lure spins into the sun light and sends a flash to Rupert.
Rupert strikes.

BRADLEY
I got one. Oh, oh.

Line pulls the boat slightly.

GILBERT
Oh good god, its a big one. Hold
her steady. Steady now. Let him
fight. Pull.

Gregory's pull sends Rupert out of the water with a
magnificent leap and wiggle, then dives and banks left out
towards the damn.

GILBERT (CONT'D)
Hold him, hold him.

Line snaps and sends Bradley on his seat.

GILBERT (CONT'D)
Damn it. That was the biggest Bass
I had ever seen.

WILLY
That was Rupert.

GILBERT
Who?

WILLY
Rupert. We saw him by the lilies
last year.

GILBERT
Why didn't you tell me? Boy, we are
going to get him this summer. I bet
he is headed over by the damn. We
spooked him.

Gilbert taps Bradley on the shoulder. Looks up and dark cloud
rolls in with thunder.

GILBERT (CONT'D)
Let's get in.

BRADLEY
Should we get stronger test line,
Grandpa?

GILBERT
Yes, son. God heavens, yes.

Bradley rows to shore as Gilbert stands at the back end of the boat. Looks for Rupert.

EXT./INT. DOROTHY. HOME

Rain pours as the Tornado pulls in. Gregory stands on the porch with a record. Willy and Bradley step out of the car and run to the porch.

WILLY
We almost had him.

GREGORY
Who?

WILLY
Rupert.

GREGORY
I had him, but he was too strong.
Broke the line. He is a five for
sure. What is that?

Gregory takes the new record from Gregory.

GREGORY (CONT'D)
Buck Rogers, The Mechanical mole.

Willy opens the screen door.

WILLY
After you.

Boys enter with class.

INT. EARL'S BARBER SHOP. DAY

Earl snips Woody's hair, while Woody reads the paper.

WOODY
Says here they found another one.

EARL
What they find, Woody?

WOODY
Another Nazi hiding in South
America.

MERLE, 68, sits down the Gazette news paper.

MERLE
My nephew said they had moseyed up
there in Kaufering, found what
looked to be a camp of some sort,
come to find out it was a
Concentration killing camp. Hitler
had been set to exterminate the
Jews all over Europe. Didn't make
any damn sense.

EARL
The Kaiser, Hitler, who would known
about Korea. Heck, looks like the
devil is timing us right. Who could
say what is next?

PHILLIP
Indochina. French been scurrying
around over there for awhile. Now
they're asking for help. Got
themselves in a bundle. Surrounded
up at some place called Na San.
Communist ain't going to let'em
out. We'll be there soon, you'll
see, you'll see.

Door bell jingles. Jimmy walks in with a newspaper over his
head.

JIMMY DEACON
Woody, Merle, Ed, Earl, Phil.

EARL
Take a seat, Jimmy. I have three
ahead of you.

Jimmy looks down the line at four men.

JIMMY DEACON
Well, Earl I see four.

EDDIE, 74, sits before judgement in the waiting chair.

EDDIE
I was stacking Masons in the
basement. Something was a brewing
upstairs. I yaundered upstairs for
a looksee.
(MORE)

EDDIE (CONT'D)

(Sarcastic)

Thought it was the pie....Anyway, I
am here till close. You done with
that paper, Jimmy?

Jimmy hands the paper to Eddie.

INT./EXT. GROCERY STORE. NIGHT

Kevin Tanner places his bag on the counter. Makes sure he has his eggs and Vegetables. Notice Lady Bell who stands out front. Kevin smiles and exits. Lady bell allows him to walk by.

TANNER BOY

Good evening, Bell.

Bell follows Kevin, flicks gum out then stalks Kevin.

Kevin reaches the bottom of the porch stairs, as Lady Belly grabs him and takes him to the side of the grocery store.

Kisses Kevin real soft. Then lets go.

LADY BELL

Don't tell nobody.

Lady Bell walks away.

LADY BELL (CONT'D)

Damn that had to happen.

Kevin stands in disbelief.

EXT. HILL OVERLOOK TO EASTLAND DAMN. DAY

Gregory, Willy and Bradley stand at the base of the hill soaked by the rain.

BRADLEY

Go.

Boys race up the hill, while rain pours down on them.

Willy slides down a slippery slope, yet Gregory pulls him up. Bradley assist from the rear and the boys continue to race up the hill.

Gregory reaches the top followed by Bradley and then Willy from the rear. They stare at the damn below, as the rain stops and the sun peaks down upon the reservoir.

GREGORY

Look at that.

Rainbow slides down upon the reservoir.

WILLY

Did you see that?

BRADLEY

That is good luck. Wow.

All boys stair at the beautiful spectacle from the heaven with arms around each others shoulders. Will tilts his elbow on Gregory fs shoulder.

In the distance Rupert jumps out of the water an makes a big splash.

WILLY

Did you see that?

GREGORY

Let fs go get him.

WILLY

Ah, we can ft. My grandad wants us to go with him to the shop.

Willy and Bradley descend down the hill, as Gregory watches the shadow on the bank of the reservoir dance in the distance.

INT. FLASHBACK. THE MAJESTIC. NIGHT

Jimmy, 9, stands at the refreshment counter, as the attendant butters his popcorn.

Four seniors walk up behind Jimmy.

BENJIMEN (O.S.)

Just tell her. She will understand. Hell we live for boot camp in two weeks. It fs better you take the girl you want.

DANIEL (O.S.)

Rebecca is going take hard.

Jimmy turns to see DANIEL, 17, BENJIMEN, 18, and two others who stand and wait for their order.

BENJIMEN

If want that woman, take her. I see how you look at her in class. Hey, Jimmy. Rebecca, or Dorothy, Danny.

DANIEL

What are you doing here alone, Little Deacon. Hey you want to sit with us?

FADE TO:

Jimmy sits between the men in the first row. He turns and sees Dorothy who sits next to Rebecca. Dorothy turns to see Jimmy stare at her in with grace. She winks at Jimmy.

Jimmy smiles. Turns around and sits.

INT./EXT. EASTLANDS BINGO HALL. NIGHT

Earl sings *Return to Me*, as Jimmy and the band play to World War I and II Veterans.

Man drops a quarter in the can. Earl looks to Jimmy with a modest desperate smile.

Earl takes drag off the cigarette, flicks it, then pulls his tram.

EARL

Hey listen to this.

Earl plays the entry to Red River Valley on the Tram.

JIMMY DEACON

Where did you pick that up?

EARL

Record whirl. What do you think?

JIMMY DEACON

We'll work on it. Ketchy. I like it.

Eddie runs to the parking lot where the Volunteers sit outside by the tennessee red pick-up and prepare for their show. Pulls out some Moonshine and hands it to Maggie.

EARL

Hey, Eddie. Hey. Get back here. There he goes. He is going to do it.

JIMMY DEACON
We cook the worst Chili in West
Texas. She will kill him.

Volunteers walk in the back door with banjo and guitars.

Jimmy looks off to the train station.

JIMMY DEACON (CONT'D)
Wait here, Earl.

Jimmy walks across the street to the train station.

EXT. TRAIN STATION. NIGHT

Shadow turns the corner.

Jimmy attempts to step out around the corner. Slides back not to be noticed. Slowly peaks his head around the corner.

Dorothy waits in yellow dress alone in sadness out to the dark tracks in a distant daze.

Lights flicker around the old abandoned station. Sound of a train in the distance. Grows closer. Fades.

The beautiful silhouette in yellow stands with a slight temporary forgotten hope.

Dorothy comes to and walks off.

Jimmy walks out under the light. Drawn.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

INT./EXT. CAR. OLDEN COUNTY ROAD. DAY

Apache plumes swing in a field.

Earl drives. Jimmy points to an old shack.

JIMMY DEACON

Turn in here.

Both get out of the car. Look around.

JIMMY DEACON (CONT'D)

I can just smell the plumes
blossoming through the morning dew.
What do you see?

Earl looks around frustrated.

EARL

Nothing.

JIMMY DEACON

Look.

EARL

I see a couple of damns. A lot of
field. I don't see nothing and I
definitely don't smell nothing,
Jimmy.

JIMMY DEACON

Take a second.

Earl tries. Turns around.

EARL

There is nothing out here. Is this
why you had me come out here? For
this?

JIMMY DEACON

I see the best bait and tackle
store this side of Texas. They're
going to build more damns and
stalk'em full. I am going to the
bank and get a loan. We can make
this happen. This is as good as
any. What do you think?

EARL

I guess. I mean who doesn't stop to grab a couple of Coke and some bait before they head out fishing. Wait, what do you mean we?

JIMMY DEACON

You and I, Earl. You can help me. Keep the shop open and give me a hand. Go into business together. I believe it will cover. Stay, Earl.

Earl looks around. Smiles.

EARL

I believe your right.

JIMMY DEACON

So your in?

EARL

I think we can do it.

Jimmy hugs Earl. Earl pushes him away. Smiles.

EXT./INT. THE GARAGE. DAY

Ladies stand around.

Mae works on her car.

Car slowly drives by. Mae walks out. Wipes hands with a rag. Man gives a dirty look.

GINGER

Trust me ladies, they will come.

MAE

Yeah.

Walks back into garage.

INT./EXT. CAR. OLDEN COUNTY LINE. DAY

Chain gang chains rattle in rhythm with swing of the picks. Sing Early in the morning along the side of Olden County Road. Prison Guards step out of the road. Earls car speeds by.

Earl sings with. Jimmy roles a cigarette.

Car passes chain gang.

EARL

Ooh, get'em.

Steps on peddle.

Olden deputy Sheriff pulls out from behind the Prison cattle truck.

EARL (CONT'D)

I think we have a friend.

JIMMY DEACON

Oh, he is gonna pass us right up.

EARL

Good god, I hope so.

Lights turn on.

JIMMY DEACON

No he is not, Jimmy.

Earl pulls to the side of the road. Deputy Sheriff steps out of the vehicle, and walks to the driver side.

OLDEN DEPUTY SHERIFF

May I see your driver's license?
Your left tail light is out, boy.

Earl hands the Deputy his driver's license.

EARL

Are you sure?

OLDEN DEPUTY SHERIFF

Nigger boy are you saying I am wrong, and I don't know how to do my job? I said your left tail light is out, and what the hell are you smoking, Son?

JIMMY DEACON

A freshly rolled cigarette, Sir.

OLDEN DEPUTY SHERIFF

Are you sure?

JIMMY DEACON

Yes, Sir.

OLDEN DEPUTY SHERIFF

Are you sure? You see the problem here is this just isn't matching in these here parts.

(MORE)

OLDEN DEPUTY SHERIFF (CONT'D)

It just don't look right, do you understand? What are you two doing in my county?

Sheriff pulls up behind the deputy.

OLDEN DEPUTY SHERIFF (CONT'D)

I am going to go back there and talk to my boss. Let us hope he is in a good mood, because from the looks of this, I am not.

Deputy walks over to the Sheriff's car and talks. The Sheriff begins to shout.

Earl becomes nervous.

EARL

You shouldn't have come. I am sorry, Jimmy. I got the same hassle a few months ago. Seems to be the same problem.

JIMMY DEACON

Tail light. So, that's where the shiner came from.

EARL

Yeah. Tail light. Jimmy, I am sorry.

Jimmy grabs Earl's hand.

JIMMY DEACON

This band plays together.

The Sheriff steps out of the car and takes the drivers license from the Deputy.

Jimmy and Earl embrace with fear as the Sheriff slowly approaches.

OLDEN SHERIFF

Earl, Earl Thomas.

EARL

Yes, Sir.

OLDEN SHERIFF

Here you go.

Sheriff hands the driver's License back to Earl with the All-American division tattoo on his fore arm.

OLDEN SHERIFF (CONT'D)
 Sorry about that. You Have a good
 day, son. All-American.

Earl is stunned. Sheriff smacks him on the shoulder. Sheriff
 walks back to his vehicle. Yells at the deputy.

The Sheriff's vehicles drive off.

JIMMY DEACON
 What was that about?

EARL
 It was when I served with the 369th
 out of Harlem. A few others and I
 kinda made a name for ourselves at
 the Marne. After the battle they
 called me and a few others down to
 headquarters. The Colonel told us
 they needed Sergeants, so they sent
 us up with the white boys. I spent
 the remainder of the war with the
 All-American Division. Gave'em
 hell.

JIMMY DEACON
 Lightning strikes twice. All-
 American.

Car clanks, stalls, then smokes.

EARL
 Oh boy.

Smokey car pulls to the side of the road. Stops. Clanks.
 Pops.

EARL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Damn it, Jimmy.

EXT./INT. THE GARAGE. DAY

Ginger walks in Looks at Mae. Bored. Studies wrench, while
 Lade Bell Pours oil back and forth into cans. Enters office.
 Dorothy writes layout of cost and expenditures.

DOROTHY
 Well I don't know. It is going to
 get close.

GINGER
 We will be alrifght. Wait one.

Peaks her head out into garage.

GINGER (CONT'D)
Tanner turned eighteen today....

Girls turn in a seconds shock. Rush over each other and run down the road.

CHRISTY
What was that all about?

GINGER (O.S.)
Nothing.

Christy sits on a stack of tires and chews her bubble gum and taps stick on the tire, as her attention slowly turns to the car being pushed up the road.

CHRISTY
Momma, get over here. Take a looks at this.

Ginger slowly walks over to Earl and Jimmy Push the car towards their garage.

GINGER
I think we have our first customer, girls!

Dorothy steps out of the office, but when she sees the sight of Jimmy, she goes back into the office to clean herself up.

Car turns into the shop.

JIMMY DEACON
Good evening ladies.

GINGER
What have we here?

EARL
She died on us on the interstate. Think you could fix her up?

GINGER
We'll have her up and running in no time. You guys need coffee?

EARL
No, I have to get back....Jimmy Will stay and see her done.

Earl smiles at Dorothy.

EXT./INT. TANNER HOME. DAY

Birthday decorations across the dining room. MARINE RECRUITER, 34, sits with pamphlet next to Tanner boy. Mother and Father sit proud at the table.

MARINE RECRUITER

You see, son you give the Marine Corps Four years of your time and this country could will always be grateful and indebted to you service, to include assistance in college tuition and a possible career if so you do chose.

TANNER'S MOTHER

I am so proud of you, son.

Mae and Lady Bell bust on in. Tactfully walk up to Tanner Boy. Softly pull him to his feet.

LADY BELL

Come with us, Darling.

MAE

You'd been Drafted.

Pulls the gum from her mouth slams down on the recruiters hand.

LADY BELL

We will bring him back later.

MAE

We will return him. Your place or mine.

LADY BELL

Mine....

Recruiter in shock puts gum in his mouth.

EXT. THE GARAGE. NIGHT

Dorothy and Jimmy sit on the old parts container in front of the garage. Jimmy sips his coffee.

GINGER

Well that will about wrap it up for tonight.

(MORE)

GINGER (CONT'D)

Jimmy, tell Earl his piece of shit is going to take awhile to fix, but I'll have her running in no time.

DOROTHY

Get home, baby. I'll lock her up.

GINGER

I'll be back bright and early tomorrow. You take care now, here.

Ginger winks. Gets in car. Drives off.

DOROTHY

So, Mr. Deacon. What kind of plans you have?

JIMMY DEACON

Well, I don't know. Its seems by Summer the fair is the only thing we are going to have left. I keep holden on to a surplus that no one wants to be reminded of. I seen this old shack by the damns. I figure I could rent it and get a nice Bate and Tackle store going. Seems a good place as any. What about you, Ms. Davis, any plans?

DOROTHY

My mother is trying to talk me into going to Austin. It seems a good idea.

Jimmy turns his head.

JIMMY DEACON

Stay.

Dorothy is drawn. Jimmy draws away with heartfelt composure.

JIMMY DEACON (CONT'D)

You have a nice night, Ms. Davis.

DOROTHY

Dorothy.

JIMMY DEACON

Thanks for the coffee.

Jimmy smiles. Walks down the road.

EXT. LADY BELL'S. NIGHT

Tanner Man stumbles out the door. Kisses all over. Recovers, then runs home. Jumps and yells like a man. Thunder from the sky startles him. He runs faster to outrun the rain.

INT. JIMMY'S ROOM. NIGHT

Jimmy tosses and turns. Restless. Looks out his window. Thunder crackles over head.

EXT. DOROTHY'S ROOM. SAME

Dorothy lies awake.

Rain begins to pour.

INT. JIMMY'S ROOM. SAME

Jimmy jumps out of bed. Walks out to his front yard. Dorothy walks out to Jimmy in the rain.

DOROTHY

This whole damn town wants to quit
and walk away but there is
something inside telling me to
stay. You better hold it together,
you understand? Don't you quit, Mr.

Jennifer turns. Walks to the porch. Looks back at a soaked Jimmy Deacon.

DOROTHY (CONT'D)

Don't you quit!

Jennifer walks into the house. Jimmy soaked. Smiles.

EXT. TRAIN TRACKS. DAY

Rain stops on the lake.

Train passes. Gregory stands, and walks across the tracks with a fishing pole and a old shinny tin tackle box.

Gregory looks up at the clouds. Clouds drift towards the damn.

Gregory turns left on the forked road.

EXT. DOROTHY'S DRIVEWAY. SAME

Torpedo pulls in. Bradley, and Willy step out of the car.

GILBERT

Grab my thermos in the kitchen.

Bradley and Willy exit with Fishing pole, tackle box and thermos. Enter car and drive towards the lake.

EXT. EARLS BARBER SHOP. SAME

Men argue baseball in the shop. Earl cuts hair with a smile.

EXT. LAKE. DAY

Gragory casts out towards the edge of the damn. Catches a snag. Pulls too hard. Line snaps. Gregory falls backwards.

EXT. BARBER SHOP. DAY

Earl steps out of the shop to close. The wind blows a chill of concern, as Earl turns the sign to close.

EXT. LAKE. DAY

Willy side casts. A shine across the lake draws Willy's attention. Gilbert walks the edge of the lake with pole. Runs to the base of the damn and turns.

GILBERT

You stay here.

Gilbert steps over the folded fence, the walks down the Forty foot high concrete wall. Looks down.

Gregory lies face down in the shallow damn at the bottom.

EXT. ROAD BEFORE THE LAKE. DAY

Ambulance and Eastland County Sheriff's Vehicle parked in front. Sheriff Taylor oversees the covered gurney escorted to the ambulance.

Ginger's car pulls up. Ginger runs out of the car.

SHERIFF BUFORD TAYLOR

Hold her.

Deputy tries to restrain Ginger.

GINGER

No. No.

Medics gurney Gregory's body to the ambulance. Gilbert grabs Ginger who tries to follow, then collapses.

GILBERT

Now, now, girl. He's gone. He is gone.

SHERIFF BUFORD TAYLOR

Okay, let her go.

Ginger runs over to the gurney, then slowly slides the sheet down to see Gregory's blue lifeless face.

Willy looks to the clouds that dissipate under the sun, as the shine breaks through to the lake, and the rainbow slides back up to the sky.

EXT. JIMMY'S PORCH. NIGHT

Jimmy sits on the porch.

Willy walks out and under the street light. Turns to Jimmy and walks to his steps.

JIMMY DEACON

Go home, boy.

Gregory slowly sits beside Willy.

GREGORY

Momma took the poster down. Said she don't want us pretending to be a ghost. Why do you want to be one of them? They never come home. She is tired. All the men in our lives keep going away. Never come back.

JIMMY DEACON

She's smart. You're too young to understand what's going on.

WILLY

She is taking us to Austin at the end of the summer.

GREGORY

You are too stubborn to see what is going on. Yeah, I guess it takes time. Look at you.

JIMMY DEACON

Get the hell off my porch, boy.

GREGORY

He just wanted to be a Marine, sir.

Jimmy is stricken as both boys look to him.

INT. JIMMY'S HOUSE. DAY

Dorothy hustles off the porch, then back into the house.

Jimmy sits on the porch, then stands and walks into the house, and picks up the phone.

JIMMY DEACON

Hello, Memphis V.F.W.? Can you get President Richard Attleberry, Marine Major, Retired. Well get him on the phone. This is Jimmy Deacon, I played at his wedding in 48.

FADE TO:

MEMPHIS. VFW HALL. DAY

Man taps the lever on the phone.

RICHARD

Hey, Al, get Mickey.

Phone calls are made through the day from Marine Veteran to Marine Veteran across the land.

INT. MARINE BARRACKS. WASHINGTON D.C. DAY

Colonel Williams picks up the phone. Yells from the phone and force the Colonel to cover the mouth end of the phone.

COLONEL JONES

Yes, sir.

Colonel stands and walks to the door and knocks.

GENERAL LEMUEL C. SHEPHERD JR. (O.S.)

Come in.

Colonel opens the door to Generals.

COLONEL JONES
General, you have a phone call.

GENERAL LEMUEL C. SHEPHERD JR.
Can't you see I am in an important
meeting. Who is it?

Colonel cover the phone.

COLONEL JONES
General, It is your daddy.

Answer disarms the General with fear. General's look back.

EXT. BAPTIST CHURCH. DAY

Families arrive for the funeral.

Dorothy approaches Reverend Gilbert, who shrugs, as the funeral convoy stages in front of the Church. Dorothy steps off the stairwell and hurries to her car.

DOROTHY
Boys, stay here.

Dorothy enters the car and drives off.

EXT. GINGER'S HOME. DAY

Dorothy pulls into the driveway and gets out. Jack sits in the driver's seat in shock.

DOROTHY
Jack, were is Ginger? Jack?

CHRISTY
She is on the back porch.

Dorothy walks around to the back porch. Ginger sits in black dress.

Dorothy
Hey.

GINGER
(Choked)
Hey.

DOROTHY
Are you ready?

Dorothy sits beside Ginger.

GINGER

Ready for what? To bury my baby.

(Crying)

There must be a reason or some kind of canny design that can give me an answer, because God I need one right now. If we are so damn righteous, then why does god just keep taking our boys?

Ginger leans on Dorothy's shoulder.

GINGER (CONT'D)

I just want to love him.

DOROTHY

Let's go, baby.

Dorothy helps Ginger to her feet.

INT./EXT. CAR. DAY

Hearse turns the corner and on to the JAR Memorial Cemetery entrance.

Christy look up surprised, then roles down the window and sits up with head out of the window.

CHRISTY

Mamma, look.

Jack is wide eyed, while Ginger slowly lifts her head.

Marines are lined up on the right in full dress uniform. Salute as the Hearse passes by.

At the end there stands the town to comfort the family of Gregory.

EXT. MEMORIAL CEMETERY. DAY

Preacher gives his sermon, as Dorothy looks for Jimmy.

Bradley tugs her hand and leads her to the shadow at the bottom of the hill where Jimmy hides.

Bradley pulls her down and whispers in her ear.

Ginger is escorted to her car, but before she steps inside she looks up to Jimmy with great appreciation.

Jimmy gives a fainted salute, as Dorothy stares in love.

EXT. DOROTHY'S FRONT PORCH. NIGHT

Dorothy stands restless at the stairs, while the girls sit on the front porch.

Mae comforts Ginger on the porch swing as Dorothy sits on the edge at the stairway. The acoustics from the guitar in the wood-line draw Ginger's head from Mae's shoulder.

Dorothy looks back to Ginger's affirmative approval.

Ginger nods.

Dorothy walks off the porch and to music in the back.

Jimmy plays sweet.

Dorothy approaches and Jimmy stops playing and looks up. Dorothy slides Jimmy's Stetson off.

Closes softly in takes Jimmy and kisses him.

EXT. RANCH FIELD. DAY

The beautiful Texas sun rises from the east. Rancher on horse rides before the majesty, as another rancher arrives across. Rancher takes a deep breath of glory, then takes his Stetson Hat off and on his heart. The second follows.

INT./EXT. BEDROOM. DAY

Dorothy lies on Jimmy's chest as his eyes open.

JIMMY DEACON

I hadn't fed the humming birds in a week. I think I need to....

DOROTHY

Sh....

Dorothy straddles Jimmy. Kiss. Love.

Humming bird slowly closes on the feed. Another joins.

EXT. BAPTIST CHURCH. DAY

Jimmy walks in.

Dorothy looks back and shrugs Jimmy to here isle.

Jimmy smiles, as Dorothy and the boys scoot over and make room for one more.

Jack smiles silently at Jimmy (I know about the shop).

Reverend Gilbert walks out and rings the bell.

INT./EXT. BARBER SHOP. DAY

Earl clips a customer's hair when he notices the Garage owner with a chain and lock arguing with Jack.

Earl approaches Jack.

JACK
Man, I don't know. Damn it, what am I going to tell her?

EARL
What is going on, Jack?

JACK
I am plum out. The funeral and all.

Jack sighs.

EARL
How long?

JACK
End of the month. What am I going to do, Earl?
(Sigh)
What am I going to do? Ginger can't lose anymore, damn it.

EXT. FIELD. DAY

Jimmy, Jack and Earl walk in far behind the picnic tables and the post Church picnic.

EARL
How long?

JACK
One week. I can't pull from the bank. Damn near wiped out as is.

JIMMY DEACON
Have you told the ladies yet?

JACK

No. It would just be too much. Damn it fellas, what are we going to do? We have a week before they gonna shut'er down.

INT. TOWN HALL. DAY

Mayor hammers down on the podium.

MAYOR BRADFORD

Well ladies and gentlemen it is two weeks before the Fair so I pray we have everything set in order to accommodate our guests and make this the best county fair in Texas. Earl, are you and the boys ready.

EARL

Yes Mayor, but.

MAYOR BRADFORD

Jeb how is your recipe?
Can the Chilli hold up.

JEB

Our Chilli can hold up to anything Tennessee can muster.

Earl attempts to raise his hand.

MAYOR BRADFORD

Mrs. Jefferson, have all the zoning permits been stamped and approve?

MRS. JEFFERSON

Yes, Mayor.

MAYOR BRADFORD

Finally, Red did you get in touch with the local high school Band director?

RED

Not yet.

EARL

Mayor.

MAYOR BRADFORD

Well get with it. I need a list of the songs that afternoon.

(MORE)

MAYOR BRADFORD (CONT'D)

We do not want to sound like tennessee this year. We are West Texas and it will sound like west Texas.

EARL

Mayor.

MAYOR BRADFORD

What is it Earl?

EARL

I would like to make you all aware that our local garage ran by the girls. Well, it is in a little trouble.

MAYOR BRADFORD

What does that have to do with this year's Fair?

EARL

Everything.

MAYOR BRADFORD

I don't see this pertaining to the necessity in bringing this fair to life, Earl. Teddy, you're delinquent on rent, so we will bypass the permit a second.

EARL

Hey!

(Sincere)

Sheriff you need a new engine. Red when was the last time you changed your brakes? This town needs a fixen and we owes it to them. These women have kept this town going since Forty-One when our boys went of to war, and now we going to let this place go because our boys didn't come home. They stepped in, covered down and filled the factory, raised their kids scratching and clawing their way with nothing more than just enough to make an ends. We won, we tied, god damn it, we ran out. We are all that's left. Who is going to save them? We lose them, we lose this town. We lose our country. We owe it to them damn it. Come on people, they need us, right now.

(MORE)

EARL (CONT'D)

Make it happen now, People! Maybe
if we open up our hearts we can get
this town going again.

Town hall personal look in silence.

EXT./INT. GARAGE. DAY

Christine sits on the tires in front of the shop. Looks up slowly.

Lady Bell turns wrench under the car. Christine darts around the corner and into the office.

Dorothy sits at the desk. Bills in hand. Christine enters.

DOROTHY

What is it?

CHRISTY

Come look. You will not believe
this.

Christy takes Dorothy's hand and brings her out to see.

Town cars are lined up outside the garage. Earl stands halfway outside his vehicle. Smile and a wink.

FADE TO:

INT./EXT. GARAGE. DAY/NIGHT

Lady Bell turns a wrench atop. Mae turns a wrench under engine.

Ladies lowers the engine into the local police car while the girls try to guide it in.

Earl sits beside little Christy out in front of the Garage. Both play Tram. Led Belly Parchman Blues.

Earl dances for Christy. Earl suddenly guides car in. Christy dances in front of the garage.

Red's rolls his tires out to the side of the garage.

Dorothy inspects Red's brakes.

MAE

Hey Red, when was the last time you
changed these brakes?

Light in the office is on as the night is met with women in the garage at work.

Dorothy sits and counts the money.

INT. GINGER'S HOME. DAY

Ginger takes a pie out of the oven, sits on the counter and leans back. Dorothy hands the envelope to Ginger.

DOROTHY
We get a second chance.

Smiles to Dorothy as rubs her belly.

DOROTHY (CONT'D)
Yes.

Ginger nods yes, as she they embrace.

EXT. LAKE. DAY

Apache Plumes in full bloom by the lake. Early morning dew floats across the lake.

Gilbert, Willy and Bradley push the boat into the lake and get inside. Float off.

GILBERT
Lets get out there before she gets
hot, boys.

Willy looks left in sadness. Winds kick up then settle down with a sweet *Bradley* tender.

WILLY
I feel you Bradley.

Smiles. Runs and jumps in the boat. Rainbow shines over the boat as it drifts on the lake.

FADE TO:

EXT. LAKE. DAY

Sun sets center as the Boat slides under the trees along the hot bank of the lake.

Willy's tired eyes lift to the twitching of his line. Pull. Tug.

Willy slowly takes the pole from the back of the boat and sits up.

WILLY
Come on boy.

The pole bends as Willy yanks back with force.

Rupert bursts out of the water.

Willy fights him in as he breaths with steady confidence.

WILLY (CONT'D)
It's going to be all right.

FADE TO:

INT./EXT. BANK. DAY

Jimmy sits across from banker.

Banker fiddles through Jimmy's folder.

BANKER
Well, Mr. Deacon, the bank needs a little more than Marine surplus in order for you to walk out here on higher ground.

JIMMY DEACON
The proposal is sound. Go out there and look.

BANKER
Have you thought about a Cosigner?

JIMMY DEACON
Right over there.

Banker looks over to Earl.

Earl turns and smiles.

BANKER
(Reluctant)
You come here with this and the town Negro and expect trust, Mr. Deacon?

JIMMY DEACON
Higher ground.

Banker looks to the lady at the counter. She smiles, yes. Looks to the Security man at the entrance. He smiles yes. Looks to Jimmy, smiles. Jimmy and Earl walk out of the office. Delight.

EARL (O.S.)

What next?

EXT. OLD SHACK. DAY

Flat bed drops off lumber. Jimmy walks out of the shack. Pauses and smiles. Earl pulls in. Both stands out in front and take a gander at the work and hope ahead.

JIMMY DEACON

Well?

EARL

We need a name.

JIMMY DEACON

Jimmy and Earl's.

EARL

A little more spiritually fortuitous than that, Jimmy.

Damning convoy passes like thunder. It begins to sprinkle.

EARL (CONT'D)

Let's get to work.

Sun beams down on the damn. Jimmy hands two by eights to Earl. Earl rebuilds the roof. Bradley helps carry wood to Jimmy, while Willy hands Shingle to Earl. Earl taps it in.

WILLY

It's over Three Quarter.

EARL

I know how to lay a roof, don't tell me how to lay a roof, young man.

WILLY

Yes, sir. Three quarter.

FADE TO:

EXT. OLD SHACK. DAY

Rain trickles down. Earl lays the gutters.

JIMMY DEACON (O.S.)

I got it.

Earl looks up. Jimmy walks to the edge of the roof.

JIMMY DEACON (CONT'D)

Noah's bait and Tackle.

Earl smiles up with hammer as rain pours on his face.

Men build damns. Water fills the damn from rain. Monsoon pours down on the damn. Dam fills.

NOAH (V.O.)

Day and night, rain and shine with
the help a town dedicated. They
pulled together every plank, nail
and low and behold it came to
be....by the Stewards of Eastland
county.

Sun glycines on the water of the damn. Fish jumps.

Town helps finish the Shop. Shack looks more like a shop.
Rain pours.

EXT./INT. NOAH'S BAIT AND TACKLE SHOP. DAY

Dark Oak Bait and tackle shop stands plum center between
three damns. Morning sun breaks over the shop. Newly custom
bait and tackle shop decorated in spinners, lures and bobbers
down the isle. Bell rings on the door.

FIRST CUSTOMER (O.S.)

Hello?

Jimmy walks to the counter.

JIMMY DEACON

Welcome.

Customer walks around the isles, amazed.

FIRST CUSTOMER

What kind of fish they got in these
here lakes?

JIMMY DEACON

The damns contain Sun fish, Crappie
and of course my favorite Small
mouth bass. They've been well
stocked. Where you from stranger?

FIRST CUSTOMER

Dallas. I have drop off twenty miles down the road and come upon this wonder. They really did a job on Texas, didn't they?

JIMMY DEACON

We needed water. Now it is hear.

FIRST CUSTOMER

I guess when the good lord calls it down, its best to be ready.

Customer looks to the NOAH sign. Giggles.

FIRST CUSTOMER (CONT'D)

I need a pole, reel, some tackle and live bait.

JIMMY DEACON

Lets go.

Jimmy leads customer down the center isle.

FIRST CUSTOMER

I like the open face, if you don't mind?

JIMMY DEACON

Go ahead and explore these fine reels, and I am sure you cannot go wrong. You'll be the first in these here parts, to fish anyway.

FIRST CUSTOMER

Well thank you, boy. Damn I think you hit the well on this one.

Bell rings. Dorothy enters alone.

JIMMY DEACON

Excuse me.

Jimmy walks to Dorothy.

JIMMY DEACON (CONT'D)

I am almost done.

DOROTHY

I think this is going to work. You make fishing so cozy.

Dorothy leans into Jimmy.

JIMMY DEACON

It feels good. With a little luck
we will be okay.

Kiss.

DOROTHY

I believe the storm has past, Now
all that is left is god is grace.
You ready?

Lightning strikes outside. Rain pours.

JIMMY DEACON

Come here.

Kiss.

EXT. BUS STOP. DAY

Kevin Tanner, nervous suitcase in hand. Mother light whimper
in the car. Bus pulls up. Mother begins to whimper harder.
Father extends his hand for a shake. Kevin Shakes father's
hand.

MR. TANNER

Write your mother when you can. Do
what they tell you.

TANNER BOY

I am going to miss the Fair, Daddy.

MR. TANNER

You will be fine, son. The next
time we meet your going to be a
Marine.

Kevin Shakes father's hand. Rain begins to pour. Father
stands looks over Kevin's shoulder. Mae runs up with Picnic
bag.

INT. BARBER SHOP. DAY

Texas monsoon pours outside. Thunder crackles. Earl smiles
out the window at Mae and Kevin kiss. Kevin enters Bus. Bus
drives off. Earl brushes Old Man off.

EARL

That's a quarter. Thank you.

Old man exits barber shop. Earl finishes up with the broom. Marks on board. Tanner free cut when returns. Sits in the barber chair. Hands begin to shake. Shell shock.

FADE TO:

EXT. ARGON FOREST. WORLD WAR ONE. DAY

Earl leads the 369th up an incline. Men fall as bombs parade around them. French soldiers sprint down the incline and slide behind cover.

369th Soldiers are ducked down in a slight incline. Rain pours. Bombs drop enormous explosion as thunder becomes drowned out by the screams of men.

Explosions come down and split trees. Men get shrapnel by wood. White French Major looks over to his startled Sergeant.

FRENCH MAJOR
Qu'allons nous faire?

Thomas looks back. Reluctant. Nods approval.

Harlem *Hellfighters* Look to one another. Agree. Look for Command.

FRENCH MAJOR (CONT'D)
Allez, soyez courageux.

Earl leads the charge. Soldier shoots, move and communicate up the hill.

Three German storm troopers run down the hill. Engage.

Earl rolls man over. Stabs him with bayonet. Looks over.

Soldier who gets rolled over.

Storm trooper pulls his knife.

Earl cuts his throat from behind. Hellfighters charge main bunker.

Flame throwers walk out of the bunker. Burn two Hellfighters.

Jimmy fires. Catches Flamethrower's attention. Earl ducks. Looks to his men.

EARL
I will draw fire. We have to hit those tanks. When they turn it on me, hit'em boys.

Men nod yes. Hellfighters Grab Canteens and pour water on Earl.

HELLFIGHTER

Ready, go!

Jimmy runs right. Flame Throwers turn left. Men fire at the barrels in the middle. Flame chases Jimmy in hole. Flames follow. Round hits Barrel. Flamethrower blow up. Hellfighters throw grenades in the trench. Grenade ignites barrels.

Trench blows up.

Quiet. Hellfighters look to the hole. Earl pops up with a smile. Helmet and uniform smokes. Smile turns serious to the bottom of the hill. Hellfighters turn to a African/American Privates who looks down the hill. All turn around.

Black American and white French bodies torn and sprawled across the field.

FADE TO:

EXT. MANHATTAN'S FIFTH AVENUE. DAY

Confetti drops down upon New York into Manhattan. Crowds cheer troops. Men and women run up to kiss the soldiers in the trucks that drive by.

Hellfighters march in the back draped in French bravery medals. Croix de Guerre on their uniforms. Black troops arrive.

White Parade Attendee, turned away hands daughter a sucker stands and turns his attention to the parade, takes his hat off, stunned.

WHITE PARADE ATTENDEE

God Damn.

Hellfighters march with a smile and proud. Daughter smiles and waves back. Young Earl winks at her.

INT. BAR. NIGHT

Uniformed Black Soldiers dance with their women to French music.

Earl plays with the band.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT./INT. BARBER SHOP. DAY

Rain stops.

Earl stands in front of the Harlem Hellfighter's picture. Earl smiles back center. Smiles. Walks to the exit.

Earl caught by nature's approval. Walks out of the, barber shop and turns the sign from open to Closed.

Earl exits. Smiles, puts tram in his back pocket as he walks across the street, as Town prepares for the fair.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE. FOURTH OF JULY. DAY

Red white, and blue ribbon tied on the light pole. Bands rolls down Main street. Plays *In god we trust*.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. STAGE PAVILION. DAY

Ringer in a game of horse shoes. Lights begin to turn on around the Fair.

Willy pulls back the hammer and slams the it down. Near top.

Mae gets up and walks away.

WILLY

Almost.

MAE

Keep trying, baby.

Bradley walks over to the chair at the picnic table. Stetson box lies with a ribbon on the seat. Smiles.

MAE (CONT'D)

Try it on.

Bradley takes the Stetson out of the box and puts it on.

BRADLEY

What do you think?

DOROTHY

It is you baby.

Jack pulls in with Ginger and Christy. Dorothy stands from the picnic table and walks to Ginger. Ginger pops the trunk.

GINGER

Help me.

DOROTHY

What have we here?

GINGER

Blue Berry in here. Apple here.
Peach and Cherry underneath.
Well...

Dorothy turns and whistles to the girls. Ginger pulls the boxes from the trunk. Dorothy sets down the box. Ginger momentarily takes it in then grabs another box.

GINGER (CONT'D)

This should do. I hope the weather holds, by the way who is winning?

The Volunteers play the Tennessee Waltz.

MAGGIE, 27, sings sweetly into the Tannoy Microphone Circa 1950.

Back row Texas men in the back sway with Tennessee with a hypnotic BBQ betrayal love stain on their shirts, as they enjoy Tennessee ribs.

In front of stage Faces and handkerchiefs bare Tennessee BBQ, as their ladies struggle to pull them into a waltz, and away from Maggie's hypnotic voice.

Tanner brings the bear to Mae. They run to dance.

Mayor Bradford walks up beside Minister Johnson.

MAYOR BRADFORD

Reverend, I think we are going to need a prayer on this one.

Earl walks up beside Jimmy.

EARL

They got us again.

Ginger brings in the heavenly presence. Looks to the storm clouds strong.

WOODY

Well, are we going to be the first ones?

Merle lets out a pathetic cry.

EDDIE

She is taking it home ain't she,
boys? This is a god damn
cataclysmic tragedy.

JIMMY DEACON

You try to peel them away.

EDDIE

My wife is going to kill me.

JIMMY DEACON

Let us go fetch the trophy.

Barber shop band walks to the judges stand.

TENNESSEE JUDGE

Well, I'll be....

EARL

I guess you know why were here.

TENNESSEE JUDGE

Excuse me?

EDDIE

We kinda wanta, you see we know. We
can just smell it, if you
understand what I am saying?

Tennessee Judge reaches around and grabs the trophy.

TENNESSEE JUDGE

Well I guess, but we looked forward
to what you and your African had to
play for us.

JIMMY DEACON

African/All-American, sir.

TENNESSEE JUDGE

Anyhow, I believe it would take an
act of god to keep this ol trophy
in this here great state of Texas
right now, don't you think?

Tennessee judge turns around to the display and grabs the trophy. Hands it to Earl. Thunder freezes the band, as the they look to the heavens.

Mayor Bradford stands beside Maggie at the Barbecue booth with BBQ around his mouth, with rib in hand. Guilty.

MAYOR BRADFORD

Get'em in the Theatre. Sheriff call Frank, I'll take hit on this one.

EARL

You just hold on to that for now, boys.

Barber shop band heads to the Majestic.

Town follows. Chains break and the door opens up.

Earl and the band set up, while Jimmy tunes his guitar back stage. Minister Johnson turns and walks to the theatre. Rain trickles down on the theatre. Pours. Theatre fills up.

Minister Johnson enters and closes the door behind him.

Jimmy turns around and walks to the stage. Gilbert freezes Jimmy as he sits on a stool smoothing Bradley's Stetson.

GILBERT

Danny was my son, well the closest to one, anyway. We lost him in a big way. I know we are all struggling with this and I damn hope we make it again, together. Now she wants to stay here. She loves you, boy. I can't remember when she softened like that. Not ever. When you take that stage. When you go out there, I really hope you understand what it is your looking at. I really hope you can appreciate it for what it is, was and will always be.

Gilbert lays the Stetson on.

GILBERT (CONT'D)

Go.

Theatre fills up to standing room only.

Jimmy slowly walks on stage before the first four rows that had fill up with young boys.

Young African-American boy, DENNIS JAMES, 9, wears a fifty-nine Yankees jersey and Tennessee cap.

Jimmy closes on the Microphone.

JIMMY

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. Son, take the cover off, please.

DENNIS

Yes, sir.

Dennis takes his Texas cap off. Earl wipes the harmonica with a smile. All men take their cover off.

Jimmy winks to the first four rows.

JIMMY

Hit it, Earl.

Earl softly lowers his lips on the tram and plays the introduction of the *Red River Valley*. Dorothy whispers across the theatre *I love you*.

Jimmy smiles proud and lowers to the little patriots in the first four rows with a warm smile, then looks out to the Majestic with Concerned love.

And the band plays on....

FADE OUT: