

JUSTIN AND HIS MOM

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FADE IN:

EXT. TRAILER - DAY

The tiny dwelling is parked in an isolated clearing near a state wildlife reserve.

An argument between a man and woman is heard amidst the dreadful crying of a child.

INT. TRAILER - DAY

A dish flies across the trailer isle and crashes onto the back wall of the trailer, scatters into thousands of pieces.

ETHEL (OS)

You son of bitch!

JOHN, 35, looks astonished at ETHEL, 28, who holds a little boy in her arms. The boy cries desperately.

Ethel has a huge bruise on her right eye.

JOHN

You are a crazy bitch,
Ethel!

ETHEL

You hit me again and I'll
kill you, you bastard
coward!

The little boy cries relentlessly.

Ethel approaches John furiously and shoves him toward a table with a lamp but he parries from the blow and Ethel loses balance.

The boy falls violently to the floor. In the background is the sound of crushing wood and glass as Ethel screams.

INT. TRAILER - DAY

JUSTIN, 20, suddenly wakes up shaken and sweaty.

JUSTIN

What the fuck!

He breathes heavily a few moments as he regains some composure. He looks across the room.

There's a bed where someone sleeps, undisturbed by his outburst.

He gazes at the human shape beneath the sheets a moment and then rises and stretches.

He lumbers to the main door and opens it.

Outside is clear; a sunny day!

FEMALE VOICE (OS)

Justin!

Justin glances back quickly toward the bed and then ignores the call as he steps off the trailer.

EXT. TRAILER - DAY

Justin surveys his surroundings.

Outside is a true mess. Card boxes; bottles of beer; cans of beer and tinned foods, everything scattered about.

An old Chevy is parked in front of the trailer.

Justin pulls from his jeans' pocket a crushed pack of cigarettes. Taps one out and lights it.

FEMALE VOICE (OS)

Justin!

JUSTIN

(looking back to the trailer)
Fuck! Wait old!

Moves away and unzips his jeans. Pees!

FEMALE VOICE (OS)

Did you make my breakfast?

He pees on marching ants. The ants speed up and scatter various directions to avoid the hot stream.

JUSTIN

Nope!

FEMALE VOICE (OS)

Don't forget to bring me my medicines, Justin!

JUSTIN

Fuck!

Justin directs his stream now to a poor caterpillar who tries to get to a safe spot...Too late. The pee hits him violently and blasts him into obscurity.

FEMALE VOICE (OS)

Are you coming to put me in the bath? Justin?

JUSTIN

Fuck! Fuck! I'm coming!

Justin zips himself as he stares blankly into nowhere with his cigarette hanging carelessly from his mouth.

FEMALE VOICE (OS)

C'mon, Justin! I need to go to the toilet!

JUSTIN

(mocking)

C'mon, Justin! I need to go to the toilet...

INT. TRAILER - DAY

Justin moves to a little kitchen.

He cleans up a little table that is a true mess. Picks up a little parcel, opens it.

Cocaine!

FEMALE VOICE (OS)

Justin!

JUSTIN

I'm coming!

He pours the white powder onto the table in a tiny carrier and inhales it all!

Sniff!

Justin releases a gratified exhale with a euphoric slant in his eyes.

He moves toward where the woman lies in bed.

She is Ethel, now older than in Justin's dream. Her hair is tangled and matted.

JUSTIN

(cleaning his nose)

What?

ETHEL

I was...I wetted my pants, son!

Her pajama bottoms and the sheet beneath her are covered with a moist darkened circle.

JUSTIN

You old idiot! Now who will wash this fucking sheet? Huh?!

He grabs Ethel by her arms and drags her abruptly from the bed.

He carries Ethel to the bathroom with her feet dragging the floor.

He opens the bathroom door and sits her on the vase.

JUSTIN

Now help yourself, oldie!

INT. TRAILER - DAY - LATER

Ethel sits at the table and eats milk and cornflakes.

ETHEL

Where are my medicines!

Justin opens a cupboard, takes out little bottles of different medicines, and hands them to Ethel.

JUSTIN

These fucking things will kill you Mom!

ETHEL

(while she takes the medicines)
And cocaine will do the same with you, Justin!

JUSTIN

Shut up!

ETHEL

Now put me outside to see the sun!

JUSTIN

(to himself)
What a fucking life!

Abruptly, Justin picks Ethel up by the arms and clumsily carries her outside the trailer.

ETHEL

My wheelchair, Justin! My wheelchair!

EXT. TRAILER - DAY

Justin places Ethel on the stairs as he goes back inside.

Seconds later he is back with a wheelchair. Justin opens it and sets Ethel in it.

ETHEL

Thanks, Justin. Hey, son,
I know I have been a heavy
burden in your life...

JUSTIN

(rolling weed)
Fuck! Stop being sippy,
Mom!

ETHEL

Give me the joint, please!

Justin finishes rolling the weed and hands it to Ethel.
She puts it in her mouth and waits as Justin lights it.
Ethel smokes it like a professional as Justin rolls
another.

ETHEL

(holding the air)
As you know we are alone
in this world, Justin.
Your father left us
alone...Now we're Justin
and his mom.

JUSTIN

Shut your fucking mouth!

ETHEL

John was a man that...

JUSTIN

Stop that, Mom! He was a
bastard fuck idiot!

Justin drops a good amount of marijuana off the paper.

JUSTIN

Look what you did, old
woman! Fuck, fuck...Fuck
life!

ETHEL

I know son. I know... You
will be free when I die...

Justin moves toward Ethel, furious...

JUSTIN

(shaking her up)
Shut your mouth! Stop it!
Stop it! I hate you!

EXT. TRAILER - NIGHT

The trailer is illuminated inside.

Suddenly, thick black smoke billows out of it.

Immediately, flames appear from one of the windows...

The blazes overtake the trailer.

ETHEL (OS)

Help! Justin! Help me!

The trailer is engulfed in flames, nearly destroyed utterly.

ETHEL (OS)

Help, me!

Suddenly, someone appears at the door. It is Ethel in her wheelchair.

She's on fire and screams in terror.

ETHEL

You don't love me, Justin.
You hate me, son!

INT. TRAILER - DAY

Justin wakes up shaken and terrified.

JUSTIN

No Mom! I love you, I
love!...

He is on an old couch.

Smoke drifts through the air...

ETHEL (OS)

What is happening, Justin?

Justin sits on the sofa edge.

He looks around bewildered and stands up.

The smoke encircles his head.

Justin runs to the kitchen where Ethel, in her wheelchair, prepares food.

JUSTIN

Are you okay, Mom?

ETHEL

I'm okay, dear.

JUSTIN

Hey what are you doing?

The smoke originates from something which roasts on a little cooker.

ETHEL

Roast beef, dear.

JUSTIN

Cool.

ETHEL

Could you fix my hair in a pony tail, Justin?

JUSTIN

(scratching his eyes)
'Course, Mom.

ETHEL

Did you have a bad dream again?

JUSTIN

(fixing Ethel's hair)
Yeah. Two!

ETHEL

What happened?

JUSTIN

Doesn't matter.

ETHEL

Look, if you wish to go to a bar, it's okay. I'm feeling well today. I took my medicines. You can go, dear.

JUSTIN

Are you sure, Mom?

ETHEL

It'll be okay.

INT. TRAILER - DAY - LATER

Justin washes dishes. Glasses and plates with scraps of food sit on the counter.

ETHEL

Okay, Justin. Go. I'll be fine.

JUSTIN

Alright, Mom. I'll be back soon.

He steps toward the door when...

ETHEL

Aren't you forgetting something?

Justin stops and backs toward Ethel.

He kisses her and she kisses him in return.

ETHEL

Our lives will change, dear. I promise you.

JUSTIN

Don't worry, Mom. See you soon!

Justin leaves the trailer as Ethel watches the door close.

ETHEL

Take care, Justin!

JUSTIN (OS)

Okay, Mom!

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

The old Chevy rolls up the road.

INT. CHEVY - NIGHT

Justin drives calmly when something outside grabs his attention...

Far way inside the reserve something burns!

JUSTIN

What the hell is that?
Mom!

EXT. TRAILER - NIGHT

The trailer is being swallowed by fire. The hot glowing flames devour the tiny box.

The Chevy swerves to a halt as the tires dig into the sand.

Justin jumps out with his wide, frightened eyes flickering in the light from the raging inferno.

JUSTIN

(desperately)
Oh, my god! Mom! Mom!

ETHEL (OS)

Justin!

Ethel sits safely in her wheelchair
outside the trailer.

JUSTIN

MOM!

ETHEL

Hey, Justin. Calm down,
son...

JUSTIN

What happened Mom?
(worried)
We have to get our things
out...

ETHEL

Stay calm, Justin. Calm...

JUSTIN

What?!

ETHEL

Remember when I said we
will change our lives?

JUSTIN

So?

ETHEL

The time comes, Justin.

JUSTIN

But Mom we have lost
everything in there...That
trailer was our home!

ETHEL

I know, I know. Look, your
father...that idiot left
us alone, but he left
behind the trailer...

JUSTIN

And it just burned!

ETHEL

Yeah, but it has an insurance bond, dear. I did it years ago!

Ethel takes some papers out of a handbag and hands them to Justin, who scans over them.

JUSTIN

Mom, this isn't for very much money...

ETHEL

It's enough to get us out of here...and start over somewhere else.

JUSTIN

But the fire...

ETHEL

(with a cynical smile)
Well it begun for itself, you know...

JUSTIN

(grinning)
Yeah, I know, Mom.

She rolls her wheelchair to the Chevy...

ETHEL

Let's get out of the past, son. The future is waiting for us!

JUSTIN

Okay, Mom. Here we go!

ETHEL

Hey don't forget to bring the suitcases to the car, boy!

Two suitcases stand on the ground.

Justin smiles and grabs them.

The Chevy rolls out of the clearing, leaving the trailer just as a skeletal wall falls over, and another one on top of it.

FADE OUT