

REAL

BY

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EXT. NOWHERE - NIGHT

Extreme detail on a microcosm... intricate patterns weave in fine white delicate lines. It's a wonder to behold, a fantastic creation in sublime frailty as WE speed away, out of it's belly to glimpse what it really is; a SNOWFLAKE. It whips upon a winter storm, to the frozen earth below...

... An out of focus image... the deepest red shifts and shimmers as focus aligns and pins. A liquid congeals into a sticky pool, as --

-- The blizzard rages down upon the body of a young man lying upon the cover of virgin white snow. He ain't dead but his eyes are as black as coal and stare into the wild sky. He's different looking, a little on the skinny side and with a touch of the rock n'roll Jerry Lee Lewis about him. His eyes blink once and WE get his P.O.V. --

-- Grey ghost clouds drift across the giant black-scape of night. As their bellies rip open and spit down the ravage snow fall...

FLASHCUTS:

A giant sky of cloudless blue. A child's eyes seen in extreme close up... he watches something unseen...

Intricate detail upon blood vessels and tissue weaving unique patterns as amniotic fluids flow, surge around a living foetus...

EXT. NOWHERE - RESUMING

Skinny Guy's name is CAL.

CAL
(relieved smile)
Lenny got the call?

A guy moves into FRAME, looking down at Cal. He's a good looking bastard but time is catching up and maybe he's got a good five years left before age starts to show and tear on him. His name is JOE EARLIE and he smiles back at Cal, as the blizzard seems to suddenly calm...

JOE EARLIE
(confirms)
Lenny got the call.

CAL
(still smiling)
I never thought you'd find me,
'weather fit for dogs...

JOE EARLIE

Sunday morning, I'm coming down
live and ready, what else I' got
to do? - Anyways, wasn't easy,
the blizzard hides your tracks...

CAL

Thanks, Joe.

JOE EARLIE

You realize you're mine now? I'm
the only one that can kill you.

CAL

(in pain)

Lenny could disagree but, 'ain't
found a way to kill me yet...

JOE EARLIE

You scared, kid?

CAL

(nods)

Jesus, yeah... I just need
someone to stop the bleeding...

Cal shifts awkwardly to reveal the pool of congealed blood
WE glimpsed at previously. It's spreading from some unseen
wound in his gut and looks pretty damn bad, spilling and
melting the pure white snow cover beneath him...

CAL (cont'd)

(gritted teeth)

... that would be a start. Can we
get this done, Joe? -- It hurts
more than hell...

JOE EARLIE

(fake concern)

It's a real mess this time...

CAL

Never been this bad before.
Please Joe, could you do it?

JOE EARLIE

The world and it's pain don't go
away that easy, kid'...

CAL

Come on Joe! Do it!

Joe considers for a moment before reaching down and placing
the palm of his hand across Cal's brow. Cal sighs, his
breathing slows and the bloody wound miraculously, begins
to heal...

FLASHCUT:

Back inside the fertile womb... WE catch the briefest of glimpses of the forming foetus... speeded up motion and rapid time lapse as it grows through weeks and months of development...

EXT. NOWHERE - RESUMING

A few brief moments and Joe stops the healing act by withdrawing his hand. Cal's eyes flutter, like awakening from some narcotic sleep and he returns to semi-clarity and consciousness. Cal smiles but then realizes something and looks down to the bloody wound - it's still there - in a semi-healed state, as it immediately begins to degenerate and blood starts to flow again... Cal looks to Joe, panic and questioning...

CAL

Joe?

JOE EARLIE

In a while, I'll finish it. I'm here now, may as well entertain me...

CAL

JOE?!

JOE EARLIE

(calming)

It's okay, just got a couple of things I want to run by you, that's all...

(steps back)

What's your theory on us, kid?

CAL

(lost)

What?!!

JOE EARLIE

On me, on Lenny, on all this? -- You gotta have thoughts, feelings...

CAL

(gritted teeth)

Bogeymen in the night...

Joe nods, takes a moment.

JOE EARLIE

That's interesting. A little harsh but...

CAL

(gasps)

So what about me? - What's this all about?

Joe doesn't even have to think about it...

JOE EARLIE

Eyes wide open, aching to meet himself on the other side of the world. Let's see, maybe wanting to napalm his whole history, and then start over? - You always had hell in your heart, kid...

CAL

Comes of being blessed with that special little something inside.

JOE EARLIE

You mean a soul, right? - Let me check you on this one, monkeys are just as blessed, as all the rest.

CAL

Really?

(beat)

Yeah, but I've got plenty time?

Joe side-steps and changes the subject.

JOE EARLIE

So how'd you get so all wised up, anyway?

CAL

Spent the whole summer long waiting for the call, the invite, the place, the time, the meet. I just wanted to feel like I belonged, 'just wanted to party with y'all. It's been a long time, since...

Cal's speech slows and he begins to drift off, staring into the snow blizzard...

Joe slaps him and Cal starts back into the now...

JOE EARLIE

Stay with us...

CAL

I ain't ever found it easy, Joe.

JOE EARLIE
 We know, kid. But we all serve
 somebody...

CAL
 I'm talking about the general day
 to day stuff, living and all
 that...

JOE EARLIE
 (nods)
 So something happened?

CAL
 You could say that. First of all,
 you abandoned me to my own
 devices, and then...

Cal SCREAMS...

FLASHCUT IMAGES:

Cal - in a cold sweat, eyes gaze into space...

GIRL and a BOY sit on a park bench, totally silent, totally still and totally soaked through to the skin, as a rainstorm pisses down upon them. They stare straight ahead, troubled by something that is obviously playing upon both their minds. Through the heavy rainfall, WE make out the drenched rat of a boy to be Cal...

EXT. NOWHERE - RESUMING

Joe kneels down by Cal and wipes his brow.

JOE EARLIE
 Something what I think it is?

CAL
 (pain stabs him)
 I don't know what you think
 anymore, Joe...

JOE EARLIE
 (to himself)
 The world changed for Cal the day
 he found out he wasn't special,
 but just the same as everybody
 else...

FLASHCUT:

Cal sits sipping a soda pop facing a mother-type figure who casually leans forward and SLAPS him HARD, across the face... Cal's all spluttering soda...

MOTHER-TYPE

You're not special - snap out of it!

EXT. NOWHERE - RESUMING

Cal stares at Joe...

CAL

It's not that. I'm worried about the time...

JOE EARLIE

Really?

CAL

Yeah.

JOE EARLIE

That's what Lenny said, '*the kid will be worried about the time...*' I lied before, the world can go away, you just snuff it out. Want to do that?

CAL

(ignores)

It's kinda funny but I keep seeing this gigantic blue sky, and I'm drowning beneath it. What the hell is that all about?

JOE EARLIE

Yeah?! - Can you smell anything?

CAL

(beat - thinks about it - smiles surprised)

Yeah! - cherryade and bubble gum!

FLASHCUT IMAGES:

That beautiful mass of clear blue sky again, and not a breeze stirring beneath it.

Beat. FLASH of CAL - he's shaking, jolting in some form of fit...

EXT. NOWHERE - RESUMING

JOE EARLIE

(smiles)

You told ya ma yet?

Cal stares at Joe, as if he understands the question, but then, he doesn't?

CAL
(beat)
What would I tell her?

FLASHCUT:

Cal pushes an empty shopping trolley around a busy supermarket, a cell phone clutched to his ear...

CAL (cont'd)
(into cell phone)
Hi ma! - It's me, Cal! - I got something to tell ya... yeah, but I didn't know how to tell ya, ma. What? -- I'm in a store, ma -- that's another thing, I didn't know *where* to tell ya...
(beat)
Ma - 'you still there? - Ma!

EXT. NOWHERE - RESUMING

Cal almost remembering a glimmer of a memory...

CAL
(forgets himself)
Joe, 'you still there?

JOE EARLIE
Stay with me, kid - I got a peachy proposition for you...

Joe catches a snowflake expertly within the palm of his hand and considers...

JOE EARLIE (cont'd)
We've always took care of you, well, Lenny more than others... 'Comes a time when maybe, we just can't do it anymore...

Cal moans.

JOE EARLIE (cont'd)
One thing I can tell you, though, time is not to worry about. No matter what those bastards running things will lead you to believe, time is not the worry...

CAL
What is then, Joe?

JOE EARLIE

What you do with it. 'You seen everything that's out there? - The world, and all that glitters beneath those stars?

CAL

Joe, I've done plenty!

Lenny considers, then ask the question...

JOE EARLIE

Yeah, but what happened, Cal?

Cal's drifting again...

FLASHCUTS:

Gigantic mass of pure blue sky stretching into infinity... WE catch a glimpse of Cal as a BOY - sipping at cherryade and chewing bubble gum, staring at something. He stops in mid-motion, his attention suddenly distracted...

Inside the womb again... Amniotic fluids encase and feed the ever growing embryo...

EXT. NOWHERE - RESUMING

CAL

(weak)

Joe, I need healing...

JOE EARLIE

We need you to tell us, you know that's how we work...It's the deal.

Cal, understanding, shifts his body in the bloody snow and cries out with the intensity of the sudden cut and jab of pain.

CAL

(catches breath)

He had a special little trick...

JOE EARLIE

(intrigued)

Yeah?

CAL

It was a trick with the eyes. He could look right through you and at the same time, pull your fucking heart out...

JOE EARLIE
Fascinating. Who?

Cal shifts again and a spurt of blood vomits from his mouth. He moans, steadies himself and looks upon Joe, who waits, patiently.

CAL
(breathless)
There's a man... Joe, let me ask
of you two things...

JOE EARLIE
(smiles ignores the
blood)
Sure, kid...

CAL
What's your *peachy* proposition?
And second, fucking heal me!

JOE EARLIE
What if it was different this
time?

Cal's in agony.

CAL
I'M BLEEDING HERE, JOE!

Joe reaches into his overcoat and pulls out a collection of photographs. He thumbs through them before handing them over to Cal.

Cal looks through the photographs... every shot, some colour, some in black and white, are variations upon a young man lying dead in different locations and obviously, through the colour grades and quality, over different years, events and times. It's a death of repetition and the young man in every photograph, is Cal...

Cal's shade of white is paler.

JOE EARLIE
Like I said, what if it was
different...

Cal lets the photographs fall to the bloody snow and scatter in the storm. He momentarily closes his eyes. It's part grasping confusion, part realization flooding through his weak body...

CAL
(winces)
Joe! You can't do this to me.
What about Lenny?! - You don't
have the power...

JOE EARLIE

Shhh... Lenny knows. Anyways,
eternity ain't all it's cracked
up to be...

Joe Earlie moves and rests Cal's head upon his lap while he picks up a handful of snow and begins to gently wipe it over Cal's fevered brow...

Cal gasps in frantic lung bursting gulps of the frozen night air. He claws at Joe's body...

CAL

Please Joe! Don't do this...

JOE EARLIE

(gentle)

Easy, kiddo'. It's amazing how even the basics take on new importance when you realize they are no longer to be taken for granted.

CAL

(scared)

This real?

JOE EARLIE

And little by little, as the child grew on, every astounding new day just seemed to lose a little more of it's shine... I wouldn't lie to you about something like this. Anything and everything is real, if you believe.

CAL

(moans)

Then I should tell you.

JOE EARLIE

Yeah, you should...

CAL

(beat - thinks)

You already know?

Joe picks up one of the discarded photographs.

JOE EARLIE

These are the ends, how you get there, that's up to you, kid.

FLASHCUT:

A darkened highway lit up by silver blue moonlight. A car speeds down it, Cal at the steering wheel, sweating and covered in another man's blood... Cal sobs and hits that accelerator harder...

Another highway, another time... different car but Cal's still driving it, bloody and sweating over a change of clothes...

CAL (V.O.)
I remember, Joe... I do...

Behind him, chasing down the silver blue moonlight, another car, black as night, speeds after Cal. WE see it's driver, it's Cal again, a demon seed fleeing hell, tortured and howling...

EXT. NOWHERE - RESUMING

Cal reaches out and grabs at Joe Earlie's face...

CAL
There's a man...

FLASHCUT:

Blurred vision, bodies melding, light streaming as an act of extreme and ultimate violence is committed. Cal stabs a knife blade into the beer gut of a MIDDLE-AGED MAN. The man stumbles, grabs at his slit gut with one hand, grabs at something unseen with the other. As he falls to his knees, Cal stabs again, a rage possessing his body and mind... Middle-aged Man hits the floor and then LASHES upwards RIPPING into Cals' body with a broken shard of glass... In the corner of this butcher's scene, kneels a pretty young girl, screaming in fear. It is the same girl WE glimpsed earlier, soaked to the skin in the rainstorm, sitting with Cal...

EXT. NOWHERE - RESUMING

Tears and cold sting at Cal's face as he clings on tighter to Joe...

CAL
And there's a girl... Nothing
stopped me, nothing ever could...
(breaks)
He raped her. He took her and he
raped her...

Joe cradles sobbing Cal within his arms.

JOE EARLIE

It's not all you hoped for, this
time here...

CAL

They keep cutting into me, like
jags of broken glass. Why are you
punishing me, Joe?!

Cal trails off, realization almost dawning upon him. Joe
watches him, making his mind up that the time is now
right...

JOE EARLIE

But it didn't happen like that,
did it, kid?

Cal stares back at Joe, disbelief etched across his
bleached white face...

FLASHCUTS:

Blurred vision, light streaming and the same figures from
the previous FLASHCUT are about to re-enact when they
suddenly - SHIMMER and then fall into dust...Cal is left
standing alone... Confused he looks around, silence...

ELECTRIC LIGHTNING CRACKS across CAL. He turns and faces
HIMSELF - a glint of something is thrust deep inside him,
twisting into his gut... White heat light emanates from the
wound of ripped flesh... Cal stumbles and glimpses the girl
from the rain. She stares silent and still...

EXT. NOWHERE - RESUMING

Cal musters his draining strength and holds Joe's gaze,
hard and true...

CAL

I know what I did. It's the one
thing I never...(trails off)

JOE EARLIE

Performing a true act, a *genuine*
act of what you believe is right
and good, well, that's a burden
to carry, kid. After time, kinda
eats away at you. Before you know
it, times all gone, left you
lying here, bleeding to death in
a snowstorm...

CAL

You don't believe me?

JOE EARLIE
Who really cares, when all is
said and done? I don't.

CAL
You can't save me?

JOE EARLIE
(smiles)
Not as you think. What's new,
Cal?

Joe reaches again into his overcoat pocket, this time, he
pulls out a single Polaroid shot and hands it to Cal...

WE see a shot of a new born child, cradled within Cal's
arms...

JOE EARLIE (cont'd)
Ache for it to never stop. But
when it ends, *it ends*, and you're
all used up...

Cal is lost by the image he holds within his hands.

CAL
I don't understand?

A sad smile flickers across Joe's face for a bare second.

JOE EARLIE
Like I said, different and, the
last...You had a girl, who had a
child...

CAL
No... that's not the story...

FLASHCUT:

The brightest of days and under the gigantic mass of blue
summer sky, Cal as a child plays in the street... In a
beat, he stops as something on the other side of the road
catches his attention... WE see what he sees -- JOE EARLIE,
dressed exactly the same and no different from as WE know
him now, walks calmly down the sidewalk, glances to the
child Cal and motions with his hand, a palm down gesture to
stop. Cal does stop, freezing in mid-motion. Joe continues
on, whistling through the glorious day, caught in a shimmer
of heat haze - a deity of light...

EXT. NOWHERE - RESUMING

JOE EARLIE
Glimpse us, then we're gone, like
dust blowing across this land.

JOE EARLIE(cont'd)
This was your chance... to leave
and move on...

Cal, hit by a surge of electricity squeezing his body,
suddenly, GETS IT... tears burst from his eyes...

CAL
(sobbing screams)
I, I, I didn't know... I don't
remember! You can't do that!

FLASHCUT:

Return to the womb as a biological surge and rush jolts the
formed child and it's eyes blink open in creation...

EXT. NOWHERE - RESUMING

JOE EARLIE
It doesn't ever stop until...

FLASHCUT:

The young girl WE have glimpsed before from the rainstorm
and the killing of the man... WE drown in her beautiful
dark brown eyes as she holds her stomach and feels the
immortal kick inside...

JOE EARLIE (V.O.) (cont'd)
...now.

EXT. NOWHERE - RESUMING

Cal throws his head back and WAILS into the night...

CAL
(frantic confusion)
I remember! Help me! Please! What
is this?! Why?! Someone! PLEASE!

Joe wipes at Cal's brow but this ain't no healing act...

JOE EARLIE
(a whisper)
Shhh... You don't get to
remember. It's not the path you
get to take. We won't let you.

Cal calms and stares, straining concentration...

CAL
They're slicing into me...

FLASHCUTS:

Cal and the girl drenched in the rainstorm... she has just told Cal the news...

Cal pushing the trolley around the supermarket with a cell phone, looks down his body to see the wound to his gut, drenched in blood... and registers...

CAL (cont'd)
Ma, I'm dying...

Repeat shot but this time, no wound...

CAL (cont'd)
Ma, I'm gonna be a...

Blurred vision, the girl reaches out to Cal, places his hand upon her stomach... Cal tries to pull away... Strikes the girl across the face...

EXT. NOWHERE - RESUMING

Joe stares at Cal...

JOE EARLIE
That kick inside. You don't remember why you're lying here, why you're dying here, do you? - Choices you make while the cycle spins - kill, live, die - then, it fractures and stops, when some action or someone comes along and makes it all just, fade away...

Joe suddenly stops and realizes. Cal stares at Joe, his eyes the revelator...

JOE EARLIE (cont'd)
You do remember...
(scared)
What did you do?

FLASHCUT IMAGES:

Under the starry night sky, Cal alone in his car. A beat - The girl's beautiful brown eyes as a tear wells... Another beat - a solitary snowflake hits the side window of Cal's car, blown on a sudden gust of wind... Cal shudders and shakes, epileptic fit state... Cal plunges jagged glass shard deep inside his wrist, ripping a wound open in SUICIDE...

As he slumps - the photograph of the CHILD falls from his hand... Beat - Cal slumped in the rainstorm, empty and alone, as the GIRL walks away from him... forever...

EXT. NOWHERE - RESUMING

Joe braces himself in the wild night...

JOE EARLIE
Is this real, kid?

CAL
I gave up.

Joe shudders, as if hit by a hammer blow. He takes a moment, raises his head back up and WAILS like a wounded animal into the night... Cal's red eyes glisten with tears as he clutches on tight to the photograph of the child...

JOE EARLIE
(disbelief)
It's all lies and you just gave up? The gift you had...

CAL
(whisper)
I couldn't go on. I broke it all.
(desperate)
Where do I go to, Joe?

Joe opens the palm of his hands and the solitary snow flake still miraculously lies there, untouched...

JOE EARLIE
Nowhere. You're here...

Cal looks away and shakes his head in the negative. Blood once again vomits from his mouth. The end is near and he knows it as he collapses within Joe's arms, who blinks back tears, anger succumbing to pity...

JOE EARLIE (cont'd)
Hey, what can you see, kid?

Cal's clutching to life...

CAL
(whisper)
Blue sky... and you... walking away...

JOE EARLIE
Yeah. - What can you smell?

CAL
(weak last smile)
Cherryade and bubble gum...

Joe gently rubs at Cal's flesh, no healing touch but a final act of mercy...

JOE EARLIE

You don't need this anymore, we
had you wrong, you weren't meant
for this life.

(whispers-sings)

Meet me on the other side of the
world...

CAL

(last breath)

Who are you?

Before Joe answers, Cal dies, cradled within his arms. A solitary tear rolls down Joe's cheek as the blizzard rages with a vengeance and Joe clings on tighter to Cal's dead body.

JOE EARLIE

(whispers)

There's this man...

WE spin away, lost in the cyclone of wind, rain and snow. Within the gusts of night's rage, you'd swear you heard a baby's wail...

FADE OUT.