Wild East by Dugan McShain

Original Work

Dugan McShain 716 S 2nd St Suite #3 Philadelphia, PA 19147 (215)840-1900

"Wild East"

FADE IN:

EXT. SEATTLE EXPRESSWAY- MORNING

Early morning traffic clogs the freeway with honking angry people. There is a line of cars that stretches as far as the eye can see.

In a white BMW sits DARRYL WALKER, a well dressed, black man, in his thirties. He is agitated.

DARRYL

C'mon man!

He glances between his watch and the grey rain-filled clouds above him.

His name is Darryl WALKER and he is not a happy camper.

He turns on the radio expecting music.

ANNOUNCER

Twelve dead in an early morning accident on the freeway. If your on route thirty get ready to be there for a while. And in other news there was a shooting yesterday at a convenience store by the river, no money was taken police are baffled.

DARRYL

Son of a bit-

The traffic ahead starts to move.

Darryl starts to drive and slams on the breaks. The traffic has moved three feet.

He rests his head on the steering wheel.

He accidently leans on his horn and gets dirty looks from the people around him.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - MORNING

The city is wild and LOUD. There are CONSTRUCTION NOISES in the background; car horns, crowds, mayhem.

Darryl hurries towards the office building hunched over against the rain like others around him.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

The noise is QUIET as he walks through the revolving door of the office building. The moment of quiet is brief.

He takes a deep breath and exits the revolving door to LOBBY NOISE. It is very hectic.

Packages are being signed for; The cappuccino machine in the lobby coffee shop steams; a random TV belts out news from CNN; any noise than can be made is being made.

The elevator closes right before Darryl gets to it, he waits-

He decides to take the stairs.

As he turns away, the elevator opens. He rushes back and leaps through the doors.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

The elevator is SILENT. Except for the low pinging between floors. "Girl from Ipenima" plays softly over the speakers.

The elevator opens to OFFICE NOISE. Typewriters, fax machines, printers, staplers. The works.

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

He exits the elevator amid the bustle. He finally gets to his office, he skirts people who carry large bundles of paper and documents.

He passes RITA, his secretary, who sits two feet away from her desk because of her huge pregnant belly.

She is about to speak, he holds up his hand. He enters his office and closes the door.

SILENCE. It is blissfully silent. He sits at his desk. A beat goes by, he is about to relax when the

PHONE RINGS. He picks it up hurriedly.

RITA

Rough commute?

DARRYL

Yes. Please hold all my calls, Rita, I need a moment to my self.

RITA

Sure thing Mr. W.

DARRYL Thank you Rita.

There is a moment. The line is still open. He can hear breathing.

DARRYL

What?

RITA Your girlfriend on line one!

DARRYL

Thank you Rita.

Darryl answers her to find the intercom has cut off. He turns back to the phone.

The light is blinking. It is blinking to the wedding march. Wedding bells can be heard in its beat.

DARRYL

Hello?

DARRYL No...Honey... I can't believe it.

(weakly)

Hon...

DARRYL

So what?

DARRYL Oh yeah for how much?

DARRYL Forget it I'll write the check.

DARRYL

For what?

DARRYL

I gotta go. Can I call you later?

CLICK! Darryl stares at the phone.

RITA (O.C.) You're gonna die of a heart attack when you reach thirty eight!

Darryl looks up shocked. Rita stands at the doorway with her hands on her hips she has a box of donuts in her other hand.

DARRYL

What did you just say?

RITA I said do you want a donut or d'ja already eat?

He stares at her and then at the box of donuts in her hand. He shakes his head.

No. I'm fine thank you.

RITA I don't know about that. I think it's time for a break.

Snapping out of his daze.

DARRYL I can't right now, you know I have to be here, especially this week. If all goes well we'll all be sitting pretty.

RITA Mr. W if you've ever seen my mother you've know that I am never gonna sit pretty.

She turns abruptly, leaving Darryl blissfully alone.

He relishes the silence for just a moment. There is a knock on the door. An older man enters.

It is MR. Lipschitz. Darryl's boss. Darryl jumps.

MR. LIPSCHITZ

Do you have the reports on the quarterly income exponents that I asked you for?

DARRYL

Yes sir.

MR. LIPSCHITZ And the merger spreadsheets?

DARRYL

Right here.

MR. LIPSCHITZ And the employee salary account forms?

But, you said you didn't need those.

MR. LIPSCHITZ Well I obviously do.

Darryl swarms all over his office.

He goes to the door, about to shout to Rita, when a hand pops through with a file in it.

DARRYL

(to Rita) Thank you Rita.

He turns back to Mr. Lipschitz as the man sits down in Darryl's chair.

DARRYL

Here you go Mr. Lipschitz.

MR. LIPSCHITZ

Did I ever tell you why I hired you at this company?

DARRYL

I worked here before you got here.

MR. LIPSCHITZ I mean why I kept you on all of these years.

DARRYL

Because this place would crumble without me.

MR. LIPSCHITZ

No, it's not that exactly. It's cause you do what I say. That's the most important thing about you working here. You're a valuable yes man. And I just want you to know that I appreciate that in a man. (MORE) MR. LIPSCHITZ (cont'd) I don't have a lot of respect for you, but I just wanted you to know that I really do appreciate you. Right?

DARRYL

Yes sir.

Mr. Lipschitz stands and heads for the door. He grabs the packet of papers out of Darryl's hands.

MR. LIPSCHITZ Keep up the good work.

DARRYL

Yes sir.

Darryl watches as Mr. Lipschitz goes out the door. He turns at the last second.

MR. LIPSCHITZ Oh, and Darryl.

DARRYL Yes Mr. Lipschitz?

MR. LIPSCHITZ Happy birthday.

DARRYL

Thank you sir-

The door slams shut leaving Darryl in silence once again.

Darryl sighs and sits down on his couch.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM- LATER

Mr.

MR. LIPSCHITZ

With the current market situation there is little doubt in my mind that this company cannot proceed as it is. (MORE) 7.

MR. LIPSCHITZ (cont'd) There will be certain changes as a result but we are expecting these changes to be minimal. I'm sure all of you have questions for me I'd like to open the floor up so that I can calm any of you who are getting skittish.

There is a flurry of questions around the table. Some discussions are heard, there are a number of angry voices.

BOB FROM ADVERTISING Are there any indications that there will be any problems with the change over?

MR. LIPSCHITZ

There are no reasons to be worried for your jobs people. I have discussed the problems over with Mr. Takagowa. He feels that the current team is working quite well and there should be no major hiccups in the process.

PHIL FROM THE MAIL ROOM Why hasn't it happened yet? I thought it was supposed to happen weeks ago.

MR. LIPSCHITZ

There seems to be a problem finding the true owner of this company. It seems that Darryl's father Jack Walker, did not own the entire company and in turn cannot relinquish control of said company without the "silent" partner's consent.

There is a flurry of talk about this as well as not a few evil looks in Darryl's direction.

CAROL FROM MARKETING Will our stock options be adversely affected? 8.

MR. LIPSCHITZ

Look, there's obviously going to be a change taking place so stock prices will fluctuate but as in anything, the motto of our company stands true...

Mr. Lipschitz surveys those seated around the table.

MR. LIPSCHITZ Honor, honesty, patience.

There is a brief smattering of applause. Mr. Lipschitz sits.

MR. LIPSCHITZ

Thank you.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - LATER

The attendees file out of the conference room talking to each other. The murmur of conversation is filled with questions and shaking heads. Several of the people glance at Darryl who stands, outside the conference room door, waiting for Mr. Lipschitz.

Mr. Lipschitz emerges.

DARRYL Why do people keep staring at me?

MR. LIPSCHITZ They seem to think that you are responsible for selling your father's company.

DARRYL (flustered) Why would they think that?

MR. LIPSCHITZ

You are! Maybe because you contacted the Japs, you brokered the deal, and you signed off on the contracts.

They walk down the corridor.

DARRYL

But surely they must know that it was all for the company, my father would have been proud of the price that I got. Its not like I'm betraying my father's trust. He tried to sell it tons of times.

MR. LIPSCHITZ

Well sometimes people think that family is more important than business. Me, personally by my fifth wife I realized that wives are only that, wives. My first couple of wives thought that they were as smart as me in business. I showed them and they're snooty lawyers.

They reach Darryl's door, signified by a small sign reading -- Darryl J. WALKER.

MR. LIPSCHITZ (CONT'D) How many wives have you had Darryl?

DARRYL

Uh none sir. Actually I'm about to
marry my first wife...
 (realizing what he said)
I mean my fiancee!

MR. LIPSCHITZ Well isn't that something? Congratulations son. (MORE) MR. LIPSCHITZ (cont'd) Oh yeah, I know how hard you've been working lately and wanted o personally tell you. That corner office you wanted?

DARRYL

(hopeful) Yes?

MR. LIPSCHITZ

I wanted to let you know that I had to give it to the red-headed bitch from sales. She isn't worth the dirty tampons she squirts out, but we need a woman on top. (grinning)

You know what I'm saying?

DARRYL

(disgusted) Yeah I suppose.

MR. LIPSCHITZ

Listen, come by this weekend. I have my pool, we could do some swimming.

DARRYL

It's April.

MR. LIPSCHITZ

It's heated.

Mr. Lipschitz claps Darryl on the back and is about to leave.

MR. LIPSCHITZ Oh wait. The pools being refurbished by the Mexican's, some other time.

Lipschitz leaves him at his door. Darryl shakes his head and enters.

FADE TO:

There is a large tropical beach in view. Boats sit lazily on a harbor, the sun is shining and palm trees stand quietly in the background. The soothing sounds of ocean waves are heard. Seagulls caw in the background. The entire scene looks like it is right out of a travel brochure.

It is.

"LET'S GO HERE!!" is written in lipstick across the top of a travel brochure. Darryl is relaxing on the couch with a hot towel over his head. The sea sounds come from a portable white noise maker. His shoes are off. His pressed shirt hangs on a coat hook next to his couch.

The door opens slowly. RHONDA, Darryl's buxom beauty, enters. She frowns when she sees him on the couch.

RHONDA (whiney) Darrryyyl.

Darryl doesn't move.

RHONDA (extremely whiney) DARRRRyyyy---11111

Darryl sits up.

DARRYL Huh? Oh, hi honey.

RHONDA Did you get my message earlier?

DARRYL

What message?

RHONDA The one about the money.

DARRYL No. What was the message?

RHONDA I need money to go out and get stuff.

DARRYL (mumbling) How much more "stuff" do you need? RHONDA

What?

DARRYL Nothing. Don't you have my credit card?

RHONDA Yeah, but I need cash too.

DARRYL

For what?

The desk light flashes.

DARRYL Hang on a sec. (picking up phone) Yeah?

RHONDA I need cash in case.

He waves her away. She huffs and turns to his coat by the door.

MR. LIPSCHITZ

Darryl?

DARRYL

Yes sir!

MR. LIPSCHITZ The Japs want sushi! What a shocker!

RHONDA I'm getting cash from your jacket hon.

DARRYL (to Rhonda) Huh?

MR. LIPSCHITZ I said, The Japs want SUSHI!

DARRYL

Oh sure.

Rhonda flips open the wallet. Mr. Lipschitz is still speaking.

RHONDA I'm just gonna take some cash. Oooh, I need your car too!

DARRYL (not listening) Yeah fine!

Rhonda nods, grabs his keys and walks away with his wallet. She waves. Darryl waves back, not paying her any mind. Rhonda exits. The door closes. Darryl turns back to the phone.

> MR. LIPSCHITZ It's in the food court. I think you know where it is. If not you can meet us down stairs in two min.

DARRYL Wait, what? Where is the place?

There is a click and the phone goes dead.

DARRYL

Damn.

He bangs on the intercom button. He hurries to put his clothes on. Dancing around his office trying to put his socks and shoes on.

Rita sticks her head in the door.

RITA What's up boss?

DARRYL I need you to call up to Lipschitz's office right away. It's urgent.

RITA It always is.

DARRYL Just do it!

Rita, hands on hips to support her weight, waddles over to her desk. Darryl searches for the remainder of his outfit.

RITA Hey Carol, it's Rita. Really? That's absurd. I told you not to go to that bar anymore. How can you ever find a man at a gay bar? Yeah I'm about fit to pop. (MORE) RITA (cont'd) The doctor says it's the fattest kid he's ever seen... I know!

DARRYL (O.S.)

RIIITTA!

RITA Listen is the big guy in? (listens) Really. Okay, thanks ,I'll call you in three minutes, yeah, he's out the door now.

Darryl pops his head in

DARRYL

Well?

RITA He just got on the elevator with the Japanese.

DARRYL

Damn!

Darryl runs by her and hurries down the hallway. Rita watches him go and then realizes something. She holds up an umbrella.

RITA

Darryl! You forgot your- oh well. Anyway Carol, yeah the doctor is so cute he's fresh out of medical school like a George Clooney.

CUT TO:

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

Darryl comes out of the building as Mr. Lipschitz is getting into a cab. Lightning flashes as it starts raining harder. He runs up to the cab. Darryl tries to make himself more dignified, as he gets closer.

Mr. Lipschitz rolls down the window.

MR. LIPSCHITZ Sorry son, we've got this coach full, you can catch the next one.

One of the Japanese Men says something in Japanese the others start arguing in Japanese. Mr. Lipschitz yells back misunderstanding.

MR. LIPSCHITZ Hold your horses ya short bastards! We're going.

He rolls the window up, gives Darryl a thumb's up and tells the driver to drive off. Darryl looks down the taxi stand and sees that there are no more cabs.

He rushes off down the street after the cab trying not to get wet in the rain.

Darryl goes into three different Food courts all looking the same until he comes to the one that they are eating at.

He walks up outside of it and is crossing the street as a large truck splashes his pants wet. It looks like he's gone to the bathroom on himself. Oblivious, he forges ahead.

INT. FRYING DRAGON SUSHI - MOMENTS LATER

Darryl walks in drenched. He speaks to the hostess. She points over towards the group of businessmen. Mr. Lipschitz stands to meet him.

> MR. LIPSCHITZ Damn good to see you son. What the hell took you so long?

> > DARRYL

(panting) No cabs.

The Japanese men all stand to greet Darryl. They see the wet spot on the front of his pants and laugh loudly. They chatter in Japanese. Darryl answers them. They stop laughing.

Darryl bows low. Apologizes for being late, indicates his boss and they all start laughing. After a moment Mr. Lipschitz starts laughing too.

CUT TO:

INT. FRYING DRAGON SUSHI - MOMENTS LATER

They are all seated Darryl has dried himself off noticeably. They all converse in Japanese. Darryl sits silent watching one of the Japanese men singing karaoke on stage.

MR. LIPSCHITZ What's wrong son?

DARRYL Nothing sir. I think I need a vacation. MR. LIPSCHITZ Well, there are a couple of days open at the corporate retreat.

DARRYL Sir, I need to get out of Seattle, not stay at the best western.

MR. LIPSCHITZ Oh you mean you need THAT kind of break.

DARRYL What were you talking about?

MR. LIPSCHITZ Oh just the usual, business trip away from the wife.

DARRYL

Huh?

MR. LIPSCHITZ In this business? There's not much going on if you hadn't noticed. It's the only way to keep spice in your life.

Darryl stares at Mr.. Lipschitz.

MR. LIPSCHITZ Our wives expect it. Why do you think they all take up tennis lessons as soon as you're married? Try playing with them some day. They're never getting any better. Have a drink you'll feel a lot better.

They sit silent for a moment. The sounds of bad Japanese Karaoke in the background.

MR. LIPSCHITZ You sure that you don't want to take a quick break? I hear your getting married soon... You might as well test out the suite you'll be there often once you do get hitched.

Darryl uncomfortably takes a shot of sake. The Japanese men stand to go.

MR. LIPSCHITZ Buck up son. You'll get used to it. Your dad stayed there once or twice.

Mr. Lipschitz laughs and slaps Darryl on the back.

MR. LIPSCHITZ So you've got the check son?

DARRYL

Sure thing.

Darryl bows to the Japanese businessmen. They shake his hand. They all start out the door. Darryl gets to the hostess as he reaches for his wallet. He realizes that he doesn't have it.

FADE TO:

INT. DARRYL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT.

Darryl lies there staring at the ceiling. He has a copy of U.S. News and World Report on his chest. There are sounds of a SHOWER in the background. Steam is coming out of the bathroom.

DARRYL

Are you sure about this wedding hon? I mean if we're really meant to be together then why am I feeling so trapped?

He turns to look over to the bathroom door.

DARRYL

My dad dies when he was only ten years older than me. It scares me he didn't die a happy man. He always said that he was but... Me and mom knew different. I think when she went. He just didn't have much to live for. I'm serious about the wedding I don't know if we should do this.

He hears the sounds of the shower turn off. He quickly picks up the magazine and acts like he is reading it. She comes in wearing a short towel that barely covers herself.

> RHONDA Did you say something just now?

DARRYL Oh no, no. Why do you ask? Rhonda sits on the edge of the bed.

RHONDA It always seems like I can hear voices when I'm in your shower.

DARRYL

Really? It's probably some sort of weird acoustical vibrations that resonate off of the mirrors-

RHONDA Whatever. It's creepy. It sounds like someone is talking to me.

Trying to change the subject.

DARRYL

So you in the mood for a little action?

He starts rubbing her shoulders trying to grabs her chest.

RHONDA

No! I just got out of the shower and I've been on my feet all day.

DARRYL

Yeah. I guess. (mumbling) It must be difficult to lug those packages around all day.

RHONDA

Excuse me?

DARRYL

Nothing, I just thought that maybe we could get it on tonight seeing as how our Wedding is like two months away.

RHONDA

It's a month. I can't believe you wouldn't know that. And "get IT on"? why does you making snide comments supposed to facilitate us "getting it on"? you need some help mister.

DARRYL

I wasn't making a snide comment I was just a little horny.

He tries to hold her.

RHONDA No! You sir are a grade A prick, and I don't really feel like being near you right now.

DARRYL (dejected) Fine, a simple no would have sufficed.

He rolls over. She stares at him.

RHONDA You can go sleep on the couch.

DARRYL What? In my own house? I Will NOT sleep on the couch in my own house. What kind of a fool do you take me for?

CUT TO:

INT. DARRYL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Darryl lies on the sofa covered by a crappy small blanket. He tosses and turns. It is obvious that he is dreaming heavily. After a few tosses and turns he settles down into a more comfortable dream. He is still active but this is not a nightmare.

EXT. DESERT - NIGHT

Darryl stands alone in the desert. There is a huge full moon across the plains. Cacti spread out along the scene. Large tabletop mesas dot the horizon.

Darryl stares in awe at the beauty of the desert, at night. A scampering sound is HEARD. He slowly turns and sees a huge coyote standing behind him. Grinning, mouth dripping, fangs bared. He smiles at it.

He Starts to turn to walk away. There is a whole pack behind him. He slowly walks away from the pack. They are steady. He runs -- then the coyotes run.

Darryl is running for his life through the desert. He is leaping cacti like they are hurdles. In the distance, like a cartoon, come the coyotes. All teeth and claws and fangs. He tops a low rise and leaps one last time. He falls. Sliding down the sandy, rocky hill. He comes to a stop at a big SIGN that reads -- ABANDONED MINE! STAY OUT.

He looks up at the top of the hill. The coyotes have reached the top. He ducks into the mine and the world goes black.

INT. MINE SHAFT - NIGHT

It is pitch black for a moment. The sounds of Darryl, padding along on the sandy floor, is all that can be heard. The light slowly rises. It is eerie, unnatural light. The walls seem to be glowing. There are mineral deposits, sticking out of the walls. Darryl sees them and is about to touch them. From the darkness comes a COUGH.

Darryl spins around expecting the coyotes. Instead, an old man, UNCLE EMMETT, steps out of the blackness. The old man is moving his mouth, a whistling sound can be heard. Darryl gets closer.

DARRYL Uncle Emmett? Is that you?

Again, the eerie whistling sound. Darryl gets closer.

DARRYL

Uncle Emmett?

Darryl gets up close the old man doesn't move.

Suddenly the old man grabs Darryl's wrist. Darryl is now much younger. Almost a boy.

UNCLE EMMETT HA! Gotcha! You are getting harder and harder to find in this game. I think I might just be playing a rabbit.

YOUNG DARRYL Did you see the coyotes outside.

UNCLE EMMETT Those dogs can't hurt you unless you let them. Nothing can.

YOUNG DARRYL What's this stuff?

UNCLE EMMETT You'll see. Darryl turns around and holds uncle Emmett's hand. He looks down it is a paw. He looks up. The leering face of a Coyote stares back at him. It snaps at him -- the dream ends.

INT. DARRYL'S APARTMENT - DAY.

Darryl sits up on the couch. Rhonda stands above him. Her face is oddly reminiscent of the coyote.

RHONDA Did my poppy have a good sleep?

DARRYL No, I... (looking at clock) What time is it?

RHONDA Nine. Why?

Darryl leaps up off the couch and rushes to get ready.

DARRYL Not today! Not today! Not today!

CUT TO:

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - MORNING

This morning is exactly like the morning we started out with. Traffic. Coffee spilled. Darryl leaps from his car, repeating the same routine as yesterday. He looks worn out. The VENDOR, clean and proper, gives him a dirty look.

He misses the elevator. He's about to take the stairs, when it opens. It starts to close immediately. Darryl slides his briefcase into the closing door. It slides right through into the elevator. Bye-bye bag. Darryl watches, as the elevator starts going up, with his briefcase.

He races up to the top of the stairs. He gets to his floor. Runs in front of the elevator. It opens. He looks inside but his bag is now missing. He kicks the elevator.

INT. DARRYL'S OFFICE - LATER

He sits with a hot towel over his head. There is a knock.

DARRYL Not now Rita!

There is a knock.

Go away!

There is another knock.

DARRYL Go... A... Waaay!

Another knock. Darryl stands up.

DARRYL I'm going to kill you!

He swings open the door startling a BIKE MESSENGER. The biker is wearing headphones. Darryl takes the package. Staring at the guy's piercings and tattoos, that travel up the length of his arm. He signs for the package.

DARRYL

How much?

The guy puts his hand to his ear.

DARRYL

How much!?!

The guy still can't hear him.

DARRYL

(shouting) HOW MUCH!

The messenger lifts his headphones off of his ear.

BIKE MESSENGER

It's paid for.

The bike messenger turns to go.

DARRYL

(mumbling) Get a real job punk.

Darryl turns back to his office. The Bike messenger gives him the finger and swipes a cup of pens from Rita's desk.

Darryl inspects the package. It is a packet of papers from: The Law Firm of: Lauder, Redman, King and Flagg.

He opens the packet. There are a couple of sheets of paper in it. One has a map. The phone rings. He leaves the papers for now and goes to pick up his phone.

Hello?

There is silence from the other end.

DARRYL

Hello?

A crackle and then silence.

DARRYL

Hello?

The voice of Rhonda come blasting through.

RHONDA Daaaaaarryl. Where are you?

DARRYL

What?

RHONDA

I'm at the wedding planner's house you're supposed to be here.

Darryl looks at his watch and sits down. This woman is exhausting.

DARRYL

It's ten o'clock hon why would we plan this during the day when I'm at work?

RHONDA Are you saying that I don't work? Cause organizing this wedding is a full time job. Are you coming or not?

DARRYL Where is it?

RHONDA Past the parkway.

DARRYL What? That'll take me at least forty five minutes to get to.

RHONDA

Well, maybe you should have though of that earlier, when you had the chance.

Darryl leans back in his chair stunned.

DARRYL Ok dear, I'll be there.

RHONDA You have ten minutes.

DARRYL What did I do to deserve this?

Rita pops her head in the door.

RITA I've got that doctor's appointment today.

DARRYL

You what?

RITA

I told you a week ago, I have a doctor's appointment for this guy.

She pats her huge stomach and stares at Darryl expectantly. He looks at her, and then at her belly and sighs.

DARRYL

How long until he comes out? It is a he right?

RITA

Yeah. I cannot wait for your girlfriend to pop out a couple of kids and calm down. She a very high strung woman.

DARRYL Tell me about it. But she's antikids.

RITA

What?

DARRYL She had her tubes tied in high school. Why would someone get their tubes tied in high school? She said she was a virgin.

Rita laughs out loud. Darryl looks at her suspiciously.

RITA Oh, nothing, she didn't really tell you that she was a virgin right?

DARRYL Well, yeah. You don't think she was telling me the truth?

RITA Well lets just say that she seems like a career gold digger if you catch my drift she's had training.

Darryl laughs, then catches himself.

DARRYL Wait, we're talking about the future Mrs. Darryl Walker.

Darryl puts his head in his hands.

DARRYL

The future... What am I thinking?

RITA

Boss?

DARRYL

What?

RITA Uh, the doctor's appointment?

DARRYL

Oh yeah sure.

He waves her away, she starts to go.

RITA

Maybe you should take a vacation. I mean, I'm almost ready for my maternity leave. Why don't you go somewhere alone.

DARRYL Yeah right this place would fall apart without me.

RITA I think it would survive, I'm a little more worried about YOU falling apart. DARRYL I know. I just can't. When's the big day?

RITA Anytime now. The doc told me to keep up my regular routine to try and get the kid out quicker. We'll see today why the bastard isn't ready yet.

DARRYL Ah motherly love. Bye Rita.

RITA Have a nice day boss. And take a vacation, you need it.

Darryl spies the papers that he put aside before. The map is quite colorful. It shows a plot of land in the lower left corner of Montana.

The phone rings again. Darryl stares at it for a couple of rings and then picks it up. It's his boss.

MR. LIPSCHITZ Darryl! It's Lipschitz

DARRYL

Oh hey.

MR. LIPSCHITZ Darryl! I need you to come to my office now.

DARRYL Sure, what's up?

MR. LIPSCHITZ (shouting) It's the Japs! I've got three of them in my office.

DARRYL Well what's the problem?

MR. LIPSCHITZ There's supposed to be four! Where's my missing Jap? I don't like not knowing things Darryl.

Takashi went up to the country to visit some relatives, he's only their travel coordinator. He's only here to make sure that the trip goes according to plan, today is his day off.

MR. LIPSCHITZ Speaking of which, have a good weekend. Oh, and you are NOT to come in to work this weekend. You look like shit lately, it's time for a short break.

DARRYL

Right, the weekend.

Darryl sighs and hangs up the phone. He looks out of his office and sees that the floor os cleared out for the weekend.

DARRYL No one works hard anymore.

He finally looks at the package on his desk, sits down and starts reading. After a few seconds, he sits bolt upright. His eyes are wide.

> DARRYL Uncle Emmett?!?!

> > CUT TO:

INT. LAW OFFICE OF REDMAN, LAUDER, AND FLAGG - DAY

The law office of Redman, Lauder, and Flagg is very plush. There are a row of seats spread out through the room. STU REDMAN stands in front of the assembled people reading from a will. Darryl's SISTER, Angela, sits next to Darryl. Darryl is stunned, Rhonda sits next to him bored and chewing gum. There are two ELDERLY WOMEN sitting in the corner.

REDMAN

... And in closing,

DARRYL

What?

REDMAN I said, I leave all of my Montana holdings to my nephew Darryl Walker. (MORE) REDMAN (cont'd)

May he learn to love life, and live life, the way his father never did. You may contact a Mr. Hagar out there, he was your father's attorney. He contacted us and paid us handsomely to get this information to you. Now if you'll just sign on the dotted...

FADE TO:

INT. DARRYL'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Rhonda and Angela sit on the couch in the living room. Darryl is pacing the floor. He is obviously upset.

DARRYL

Who does he think he is, dropping a
bomb on me like this? Next time I
see him I will give him a piece of
my mind.
 (realizing)
Oh yeah. What the hell was that
supposed to mean anyway? "I give my
estate so that Darryl will know
happiness that his father didn't."
What is that?

RHONDA It means that we're rich honey!

DARRYL

Dad was happy!

ANGELA

Ha-ha He was only happy when he was alone and there were no interruptions so that he could work. And what Uncle Emmett meant was that his last wish was that you finally get off your ass and do something with your life, and I'm only paraphrasing here. No offence.

DARRYL None taken. But why would he say that?

ANGELA Because dad, Uncle Emmett's brother, died at forty three of a massive coronary. He lived his life in a cubicle. (MORE) ANGELA (cont'd) I remember when he did the books on Christmas day like three years ago.

RHONDA So how much is the old guy worth?

ANGELA

That old guy as you so eloquently put it was one of the finest examples of human beings ever. He was joyful, unselfish and cared more about his neighbors in his little pinky than you will in your entire Prada wearing life.

RHONDA

Excuse me?

DARRYL

Girls.

ANGELA

You heard me.

RHONDA Oh it's like that then?

DARRYL

Girls!

ANGELA Yeah it's like that. You gold digging fake ass hair wearing.

RHONDA

Uh uh. You will not talk about my hair that way. You can not come in to my house and talk to me this way. I will throw you out on your fat ass!

DARRYL (shouting) GIRLS!

They shut up. Glaring at each other.

RHONDA Daaaaarrryl, why are you letting her talk to me like that.

DARRYL Shut up Rhonda.

RHONDA

That is it!

Darryl looks at Rhonda suddenly. Is that hope in his eyes?

RHONDA

I'm going out.

Darryl groans in disappointment. Rhonda stands up and starts gathering her coat and her belongings.

DARRYL Just go, I'll talk to you later.

RHONDA Are you mad at me honey bunny?

DARRYL I will talk to you later honey, of course I'm not mad at you.

RHONDA

I love you!

DARRYL

Love you too.

Darryl closes the door behind her and sighs as he locks it. Darryl goes to the couch and sits heavily down. Angela is staring the whole time.

DARRYL

What?

Angela just smiles.

DARRYL

What?

ANGELA

I saw you!

DARRYL

What?

ANGELA You were hoping that she was leaving you.

DARRYL

I never. She is going to be my wife! The mother of my- oh.

ANGELA You have to admit that she's a money grubbing gold digger.

DARRYL No way she's an angel. She works... Sometimes.

There is a knock at the door. It opens to reveal Rhonda.

DARRYL

What's up hon?

RHONDA

I need some cash.

Angela gives him a knowing look as he gets his wallet.

DARRYL

What happened to the two hundred dollars you got out of my wallet yesterday.

RHONDA

I spent it. Oh and real quick, the wedding planner is rescheduled for Monday so when I get back we'll go.

DARRYL

When you get back?

RHONDA

I told you I'm going to the spa this weekend. I have to, it's vital to my well being. Bye hon.

She smooches him on the cheek and disappears leaving him standing at the door.

DARRYL

Well it looks like it's just you and me this weekend.

ANGELA

What? You aren't working?

DARRYL

No, Mr. Lipschitz said that I was banned from my office this weekend.

ANGELA

Really?

Yeah, I had to bring stuff home so that I could work on it over the weekend in secret.

ANGELA

Well looky, looky. Seems like you've got yourself a free weekend.

DARRYL

So lets do something.

ANGELA

Sorry Charlie, I have to do a story for the times about Los Angles theater and the Movie stars that love it. I'll be in LA all week long. I'll be back on Friday though. Why don't you spend this weekend traveling.

DARRYL

What? Where would I go?

ANGELA

Where else does a young, smart, highly successful brother go when he's got a weekend to spare?

DARRYL

Huh?

ANGELA

Especially one who's uncle just died leaving him property in Montana.

DARRYL

If he's still in the same town that he lived in when I visited last, it's not even worth the trip out there.

ANGELA

Just do it! For me. Please? Besides I don't know why you're so upset about going out there. I went out a couple of weeks ago it was a blast.

DARRYL

Huh? When?

ANGELA I love it out there. DARRYL No way! I'll just have the lawyers sell it on the open market, have an estate auction, get rid of it all and I'll never even have to go there.

ANGELA

I doubt it would be that easy big brother.

Angela grabs her coat pecks Darryl on the cheek and dances towards the door.

DARRYL What do you mean?

ANGELA Well, with Uncle Emmett... Nothing was.

DARRYL

Bye sis.

ANGELA Go. I beg you. You're no fun lately.

DARRYL

What?

ANGELA

Just go.

DARRYL Okay, okay... I'll go, but I'm coming home Monday.

ANGELA I'll bet you won't.

DARRYL

Huh?

ANGELA

Bye!

She leaves slamming the door. Darryl looks around his apartment sighs and lies down on the couch.

FADE TO:

INT. DARRYL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Darryl sits up and sees that the clock on the VCR is blinking 12:00. He goes towards the kitchen and pulls out his Brita container and pours himself a glass of water. He finishes drinking, goes over to the sink and puts the glass into the sink. He jumps back.

There is a rattle snake in his sink. It is coiled and ready to strike. It leaps at him. A hand reaches out of nowhere and grabs the snake. It is three inches from Darryl's face and hissing in anger. It's teeth are bared.

Darryl looks up and sees that Uncle Emmett is holding the snake and petting it. Slowly the snake calms down.

DARRYL Why did you do it Uncle Emmett?

UNCLE EMMETT Just call me Emmett.

DARRYL Oh... Uh Ok. Isn't there anyone else in your life that could use the money?

UNCLE EMMETT It's not about money. I know that you aren't happy-

DARRYL

Yes I am.

UNCLE EMMETT No, you're not. Look at your self.

DARRYL

But I...

UNCLE EMMETT

Look, it's not important. I'm just happy that your moving to my house and getting out of this city. It's what killed your father.

DARRYL

I thought a massive coronary killed him.

UNCLE EMMETT

Just pay attention. That's all I ask and don't take this stuff too seriously.
Darryl sits up with a start. He is alone and cold. He sees that the clock is blinking 12:00. He goes into the kitchen, a repeat of what he did before only to stop himself from going near the sink.

DARRYL I don't think so.

He looks around him. Shakes his head at his Spartan kitchen and soulless atmosphere.

DARRYL Fine! I'll go!

FADE OUT.

EXT. SMALL AIRPORT - AFTERNOON

Darryl exits a small plane with his bag. The dusty airport is quiet. Aside from his plane there is no one around. Darryl leans back in to the plane to talk to the PILOT. They have to shout to be heard above the plane.

> DARRYL Are you sure this is the place?

> PILOT Yeah sure man. You wanted to go here didn't you?

DARRYL I don't even know where here is.

PILOT Where ever you go there you are man!

Darryl stares at the pilot as he pulls the door shut. The plane flies off, leaving Darryl utterly alone.

CUT TO:

EXT. SMALL AIRPORT - LATER

Darryl sits on his suitcase. His shoes are dusty and he looks quite disheveled. He checks his watch. He has been sitting here for two hours. In the distance he sees a cloud of dust approaching. He stands up pleased that finally someone is coming. The dust cloud gets bigger and he finally sees that it is a small 1970's beetle.

The car pulls to a stop in front of him kicking up a huge cloud of dirt.

There is a small spring mounted taxicab sign on the top of the roof. It sways back and forth as the car screeches to a halt.

Out of the tiny car steps an awfully tall drink of water. The tall man, WILLARD, has long legs accentuated by really tight jeans. He is wearing a flannel shirt, a cowboy hat and a bandanna around his neck. The man moseys around to Darryl's side of the car and looks him up and down. He nods.

DARRYL

Hi.

WILLARD

Howdy.

DARRYL (holding out his hand) You must be Willard.

WILLARD

Yup.

DARRYL Your late Willard.

WILLARD

Yup.

DARRYL It sure is hot.

WILLARD Yup. These your bags.

DARRYL Yup. Do you know any other words?

WILLARD Yeah. You wanna go?

DARRYL

Yup.

DARRYL Aren't you going to tell me why your late?

WILLARD

Nope?

Willard gets in and starts the car. Darryl hurriedly jumps into the car and they drive off.

The car pulls up to a dirt driveway. The car stops, a cloud of dust settling down around it.

WILLARD You sure this is where you want to go?

DARRYL Yeah I think remember this from when I came as a kid. This... is the driveway. It was a while ago. Willard you're one of the most outspoken men I've ever met.

WILLARD are you sure you want to get out here? I could drive you into town.

DARRYL No, I might as well get this over with.

Willard looks at him with an odd look

WILLARD Well see you later.

DARRYL Not if I see you first.

Darryl looks around him and thinks of something.

DARRYL

Waaaaaaiiiit!

Darryl runs off after it, but the car spins off into the distance. Darryl is finally at the home of his uncle. He starts up the road towards the house. When he finally gets there, he can't believe his eyes. It is a rundown ramshackle place. It is falling apart; window's all gone, porch sagging, a real fixer upper.

DARRYL Wow uncle Emmett you've really let the place go.

Darryl surveys the scene the sun is setting it is magic hour. Even the lovely light and beautiful atmosphere cannot change the fact that this place is a dump.

Darryl steps up onto the porch. His foot goes through the first step.

DARRYL (mocking) "Go to the desert, love life... Live life..." (shouting to the sky) This is some bullshit!

He starts inspecting the place.

DARRYL There's nothing even remotely worthwhile here. What the hell am I doing here?

He kicks the wall and his foot goes right through.

DARRYL Son of a bitch! It's like thirty miles to town I can't walk that!

He sighs and sits down on the porch which gives a little but doesn't break.

FADE TO: DARK.

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - NIGHT

Darryl sits in front of a small pile of wood trying to get it lit. The matches keep going out. Finally he is down to his last match.

> DARRYL I can see it now. Seattle man dies when he freezes to death in the middle of nowhere... Film at eleven.

He gets up and starts rooting through the old shed. It is in horrible condition. He finds what he is looking for a small can of something flammable. He grabs a big piece of wood from the porch and starts gathering his pile closer in the shelter of the house.

He squirts a healthy dose of the stuff n the pile. He get himself ready and lights the match. It falls onto the fire.

There's is an explosion. Darryl shrieks and leaps backwards. His suitcase is caught in the blast and catches on fire. He grabs it and tries to put it out. Who knew that Luis Vitton was extremely flammable?

Darryl grabs his bag and starts swinging it around him trying to put it out.

The handle breaks, and Darryl watches with horror as a flaming ball of designer clothes and accessories goes flying through the last remaining window of the shanty.

Darryl stumbles towards the shack about to enter the front "door" when the entire thing bursts into flames. Darryl is the definition of mixed emotions as he watches the fire that he created devour the clothes that he needs to wear, as well as his uncle's shack.

DARRYL

(singing and dancing) The roof, the roof, the roof is on fire. We don't need no water let the mother fu-

Darryl is startled out of his tribal dance as a set of headlights comes cascading over the top of the nearest hill. There is a flash of police lights as the town's sheriff investigates the flames. Darryl watches the police car with dawning horror, he is trying to rack his mind.

DARRYL

Great it's probably some red neck sheriff who's going to beat me and leave me for the buzzards. Are there even buzzards out here? I have never heard of a backwoods cop going easy on a brother.

Darryl has a sudden vision of a pickup truck full of KKK members flying along after him with torches and bottles of booze. He needs no further prompting. He runs.

The police car pulls up to the edge of the property just in time to see a half naked Darryl go running off into the night.

EXT. WIDE PLAIN - NIGHT

Darryl runs full tilt into the night, half crying, half babbling. His T-shirt is sooty and he is sweaty and filthy from traveling. He does not paint a pretty picture.

Darryl looks behind him as he flees. He sees the lights of the sheriff's car come over the rise. Terrified he runs faster. The sheriff's car is coming up lights shining.

Sadly since Darryl has had almost no physical activity outside of pushing pencils he is winded shortly and starts to slow down considerably until he is speed walking along. The car pulls up next to him as he is breathing heavily. He trips and starts to collapse as the car gets close. He thinks he hears angry voices and starts to swirl into blackness and unconsciousness. As SHERIFF NATHANIAL SILVER FOX, a Cheyenne Indian, gets out of the car.

NATHANIAL What the hell's going on here?

His DEPUTY, and wife, is sitting in the car. She is a small white woman by the name of AGNES. She shrugs at her husband.

AGNES he kinda looks like Emmett don't he?

NATHANIAL Yeah I guess he does.

Darryl fades fully into unconsciousness.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - EARLY MORNING

Darryl slowly regains CONSCIOUSNESS and realizes that he is lying on a blanket in front of the police car. He sits up with a start and bangs his head on the bumper.

He turns his head towards the ranch house and sees that it is a charred burning mess. He looks up and Sees Nathanial standing over him, shaking his head.

NATHANIAL

Now why in the hell would you go do something like that?

DARRYL

It was an accident. I'm sorry, I burned down my uncle's Ranch house and now my sister's probably going to kill me. That was my entire inheritance, shitty though it was.

NATHANIAL

So you are Emmett's nephew? You were right honey.

The deputy Mrs. Silver Fox comes around the car carrying coffee.

AGNES

Oh that's nice I was wondering when he would get here.

She offers the coffee to Darryl, who takes it with a thank you.

NATHANIAL I knew Emmett hated that shack but

I never thought he would put it in his will to torch the place.

AGNES Well he always was a joker.

NATHANIAL

That's true.

DARRYL

(sobbing) No, you don't understand. I did it by accident. He never wanted it burned down. I've killed his legacy.

The sheriff and the deputy start laughing as Darryl looks on in confusion.

DARRYL

Why are you two laughing? I don't understand.

NATHANIAL

(whooping it up) You burned down his legacy!

DARRYL You people are sick.

AGNES No it really is funny.

DARRYL

No it's not. I burned down a man's house, a place that he lived in all his life. You guys just don't get it.

NATHANIAL

No you don't get it. He moved twenty-five years ago.

DARRYL

What

AGNES He lives on the other side of the valley!

NATHANIAL

HAW that's a good one son. Emmett living in a run down shack like this. This was a party shack kid. We used to come out here and have bonfires and get laid as kids. Hell it's almost fitting that the place be memorialized with one final bonfire.

Darryl hugs Nathanial and cheers.

DARRYL

Oh thank god. I though I was out here six hours and committed a felony.

NATHANIAL C'mon we'll give you a ride.

DARRYL

Bless you!

He jumps into the car and immediately falls asleep.

FADE OUT:

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - SUNRISE

Darryl rubs the sleep out of his eyes as he wakes up in the back seat of the police cruiser. He sits up and looks out the window as e car comes over a small hill and the expanse of the ranch spreads out before him. It is a huge affair with horses, cattle and other assorted animals. There are a couple of big buildings surrounded by four or five smaller buildings.

> NATHANIAL Good morning. You can borrow those clothes for a while. I take it your duds got burned in the fiery conflagration?

DARRYL Yeah. So which one of those houses was my uncles?

Nathanial grunts in amusement.

NATHANIAL

All of em.

DARRYL

What?

NATHANIAL Everything you see was owned and operated by Emmett.

In the sunrise things are especially beautiful. There are horses galloping. Cows mooing. Sheep going at it. And various ranch hands going about their daily tasks. It is a lovely scene lit by the glorious morning sun coming up over the valley.

DARRYL

I've never seen anything like this in my life. When did Uncle James get all of this?

NATHANIAL

Emmett moved awhile ago to greener pastures. As you can see the move was very beneficial.

DARRYL

Yes I see that.

Darryl stares at the scene for a moment out of the window.

DARRYL

Well I guess we've better get going.

NATHANIAL

I reckon.

The car pulls slowly down the hill. The ranch spreads out across the valley.

EXT. RANCH HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Darryl waves good bye to the sheriff, and turns towards the main house. It is a three story fine looking ranch house.

He knocks on the door and is greeted by a large Indian woman, Lily.

LILY

Emmett!

Darryl stands there for a moment confused. Lily grabs him and wraps him up in a bear hug. Finally she releases him and takes a step back. Darryl looks at her in awe.

DARRYL

I'm Darryl.

LILY No fooling

DARRYL Uh, yeah, I'm pretty sure.

LILY I thought that Emmett had played us all for fooled and was coming back to beat death.

DARRYL

Huh?

LILY His spirit! Anyway come in Darryl, you must be starving.

For the first time Darryl realizes that he hasn't eaten since the day before at three o'clock. His stomach grumbles. She grabs him and fussing over him, pulls him inside.

INT. RANCH HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Darryl stands in a huge hallway complete with a buffalo head over the doorway. The motif is very western with Indian patchwork and wallpaper designed by tribal America.

> DARRYL Darryl, do you mind if I get changed first?

LILY Not at all, your uncle's closet is full of clothes. Put on something comfortable, we'll be doing some ranch work today. DARRYL Oh, I'm not going to be doing any ranch work-

LILY If you want some of MY food, you will. Nothing too strenuous, we all heard about how you have a very weak constitution

DARRYL

Weak consti- wha?

Lily ignores him and instead shuffles him to the stairs and then leaves off in the direction of the kitchen. Darryl looks around him at the huge hallway and starts up the stairs.

As he walks down the hallway he passes plenty of rooms, some furnished western style, some like and English study, all different.

He finally comes to the end of the hall way. There are two doors. He chooses the first one and enters a huge bedroom. Set up much the way that Darryl's bedroom is set up back at his apartment.

He sits down on the bed and instead of just sitting falls asleep.

INT. RANCH HOUSE - MORNING

Darryl awakens sometime later and smells breakfast cooking. He can hear sizzling and frying and after his stomach grumbles once again he runs over to the closet. The closet is huge and packed with clothes. Darryl, unsure of what to wear grabs the first thing handy, something in a dry cleaning bag.

INT. RANCH HOUSE KITCHEN - LATER

There is a scrumptious buffet of western cuisine; steaks are fried up, eggs, rice, bacon, sausage. A multitude of meats and breads and fruits and such and such. Lily is putting the finishing touches on the banquet.

> DARRYL (O.S.) Now that's a breakfast.

Lily looks up.

Darryl is wearing ranch farm wear. Only his clothes are covered in sequins and bright colors.

His chaps are in neon orange, he's wearing a hot pink vest, and the rest of the outfit is a rainbow of gaudy and bright colors and fabrics. Liberace meets cowboy.

> DARRYL What is there something wrong with this suit?

> LILY No. Your uncle only wore that suit on special occasions is all..

DARRYL Oh so it's his special suit?

LILY Uh-huh. That outfit shows business in the corral.

DARRYL Oh, good, I thought for sure people would laugh at me.

LILY C'mon dig in.

He sits down.

DARRYL Did you really think I was my uncle's ghost?

LILY No his spirit was a lot fatter.

She laughs at her own joke and fusses over him.

INT. RANCH HOUSE KITCHEN - LATER

He finishes up and wipes his mouth with a napkin.

DARRYL That was the best cooking I think I've ever had. Those hash browns were in credible.

LILY Thank you. Emmett never complimented me once on my cooking.

DARRYL Really? That's strange he was usually so gentleman like. LILY I mean, he complimented on lots of other stuff that we did.

DARRYL I think I'm going to go take a nap.

LILY But the sun's already well into the work day. There's chores to be done.

There is a commotion outside. Darryl gets up to see what's going on.

EXT. RANCH HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

A group of ranch hands are trying to corral a horse that is bucking and leaping all over the place.

It is a huge hurrah. Various guys try and leap onto the horse trying to ride it. One man, Tex, stays on for quite a while. He gets thrown clear across the pen though and gets up to dust himself off. Things quiet down as they all realize that Darryl is watching them. Most stare in wonder at his brightly colored outfit. Tex, finishes dusting himself off, notices everyone staring at Darryl, and with his hand outstretched. The men behind him all snicker when they get a look at his outfit.

TEX

Well howdy, partner! You must be the nephew that Emmett always told us about. He always said, "wet behind the ears and not good enough to shovel horse apples".

DARRYL

What are horse apples?

The ranch hands all break out laughing.

DARRYL What? Why are they laughing?

Rubbing the back of his neck.

TEX

Well, these yahoos haven't been around long enough to appreciate Emmett's finest suit. That there's his rodeo outfit. The one he wore when he broke the record for bronco bustin.

DARRYL

What? Rodeo, Oh I knew this suit was a bad idea. Lily didn't say anything.

TEX Lily only ever saw Emmett going away in that suit on the rodeo days. She though he was a judge. She never went herself.

DARRYL But still, I look like a idiot.

TEX

(to the ranch hands) I know for a fact that there's thirteen more new broncos that need to be roped in. You're not getting paid to jabber-jaw like sissies.

The ranch hands all turn grumbling back to their work.

TEX C'mon I'll give you a tour of the ranch.

DARRYL No I think I'll just-

Tex knocks the words out of him by slapping him on the back.

TEX It'll be great, I'll get a saddle for you.

DARRYL

What?

Tex turns and tromps off into the nearby barn. Darryl is left standing in the middle of the yard.

DARRYL

49.

Oh no.

Darryl stands there with a saddle in one hand and a rein in the other. Tex is finishing up saddling his own horse who stands obediently waiting for Tex's command.

> TEX Hang on a sec. I need some other stuff.

DARRYL Do you want me to do anything?

TEX Naw, I don't want you hurting yourself.

DARRYL T can do it.

TEX It's better if I do it.

Tex goes off to get some more supplies leaving Darryl alone.

DARRYL I CAN do it. I'll show him.

He goes over to where there are five horses tied to a post and throws his blanket and saddle over one of them. He puts in the bit. And the rein and actually looks like he knows what he's doing.

Tex come ambling out of the barn escorting a tame mare.

TEX This here is our most tame mare. It's gentle as a butterfly. I--

Tex looks around and sees as Darryl gets astride his horse and stands in the stirrups.

DARRYL See Tex! I can do it. I saddled her all by my self.

Tex starts frantically waving at Darryl.

TEX get off the horse!

DARRYL (proud of himself) It's okay! I'm a quick learner. He nudges the horse in the ribs to get it going and the horses eyes fly open. The saddle was one thing, but having someone on him was another. The horse, whose name is Crotch bitter, starts galloping away frantically. Bucking and jumping the whole time.

Tex whistles loudly and starts off after the horse. A couple of heads pop out of the various barns, as people realize what's happening.

TEX

Get after him, he'll break a leg!

There is commotion and hullabaloo as Darryl goes flying around the fences at breakneck speed. On the back of a horse that would like nothing better than to see him flying off. Miraculously Darryl stays on with a death grip.

DARRYL

Heeeeeeeeeeeee!

Darryl goes flying past as the ranch hands try and grab the horse. Finally Tex come flying in with his horse and manages to corral the horse. Only now it's inside the fence instead of running around the outside. The horse is not pleased.

After a few more seconds of this Darryl releases his death grip and goes flying through the air. He lands in the trough f water and sputters his way to the edge. He steps out of the trough only to slip in some horse shit and fall flat on his face in the manure pile.

Tex comes running up to see if he's okay. Seeing that he is Tex breaks out laughing as a couple of the ranch hands leads the calm horse back to the post.

TEX Now THOSE are horse apples.

Darryl tries to stand up and faints.

INT. RANCH HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATER

Darryl sits on the edge of the bed wearing more demure clothes. Lily putters around cleaning up.

DARRYL Lily why didn't you tell me that those colors were so god awful?

LILY I'm colorblind. DARRYL I have to go in to town, is there anyone that can drive me?

LILY Why don't you take your uncle's Truck? It IS your now.

DARRYL That's right... I'm still not used to all of this. Where's the phone?

LILY There isn't one. Emmett didn't believe in them. He thought they were bad spirits. He also didn't trust them.

DARRYL Ok... Is there a fax machine in town?

Lily stares at him strangely.

DARRYL Modem? Sat relay? Videoconferenceing?

Nothing. Nothing. Nothing

DARRYL Is there a telephone?

LILY Sure. There's one at the supermarket on main street.

DARRYL Thank you! Where's the keys! I'm outta here!

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Darryl stares at the pay phone in the center of town. It is a huge glass box. The phone is there but the receiver is not.

NATHANIAL (O.S.) Hal Brady has the phone receiver. He won't give it back until the mayor gives him back his lawn mower.

DARRYL

What?

Darryl turns and sees Nathaniel sitting in the shade eating an ice cream cone.

NATHANIAL How do you like it so far?

Darryl looks around him. The street is empty. To his left there are some kids at a playground in front of a run down building. There are about twenty kids, of different ages, all of whom go to the same school. To his right is a small grocery store with SUPER'S MARKET printed across the top.

> DARRYL His name is Super?

Nathanial follows his gaze.

NATHANIAL

Oh you mean Randall Super? He opened that store fifty years ago, and still complains about how no one comes in. Where else are we going to shop?

DARRYL Where else indeed. Listen where is Mr Hagen's office located.

NATHANIAL Next to the doctor's.

DARRYL And where is the doctors?

NATHANIAL Next to Mr. Hagen's

Darryl laughs in spite of himself.

DARRYL Thanks a lot Mr Silver Fox. (as he walks away) This town is a few clowns short of a rodeo that's for sure.

Back at the steps. Nathanial's wife walks up wearing her badge and gun prominently displayed.

AGNES Isn't that Emmett's boy?

NATHANIAL

Yup.

AGNES What's he doin?

NATHANIAL Looking for the Mr. Hagen's.

AGNES Did you tell him it was next to the doctor's?

NATHANIAL

Yup.

AGNES Well alright then.

They look behind themselves and see a large sign that reads DOCTOR. Next to that is a sign that reads: HAGEN'S ATTORNEY SERVICE.

NATHANIAL Some people just can't see the forest for the trees. Do you want some ice cream.

AGNES

Just a taste.

They sit and watch Darryl as he wanders up the street.

EXT. MAIN STREET - MOMENTS LATER

As Darryl walks around town he sees that it is actually quite nice. He mumbles about how it's supposed to have tumbleweed rolling across the street. After he says this he is startled by an actual piece of tumbleweed rolling across the street.

As he's walking, he is greeted by all of the shopkeepers and shoppers.

EXT. SCHOOL HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

By the time he gets to the end of the street, he is feeling pretty relaxed. As he gets to the place where all of the kids were playing, his wireless pager goes off. He looks at what pops up on the menu. It is the home office trying to get his approval on some simple matter. DARRYL

Oh jeez, I totally forgot I can send and receive e-mails from this thing... Hell I paid two hundred dollars for the piece of sh-

Splash! Darryl get hit by a water balloon to the head. It barely grazes him and doesn't seem to have a negative affect other than startling him.

Soaked Darryl turns around sharply to see who got him.

One of the smaller kids stands by the edge of the yard. He has a water balloon.

DARRYL Hey kid, how's it going? How old are you?

The kid holds up five fingers and Darryl cringes at the size of the balloon, it is practically bursting.

DARRYL I wouldn't do that if I were you kid. Not if you want to see six.

The kid smiles at him. Darryl smiles at the kid. The kid Smiles back. Darryl bends down to tie his shoelace and nonchalantly picks up a pointed stick.

Darryl gets closer and closer to the kid until he is within arms reach. Suddenly he jumps poking the balloon. The balloon pops all over the kids shirt. The kid grimaces and starts to bawl. The little boy runs away, around the corner of the building.

Feeling bad Darryl chases the kid.

DARRYL Oh, c'mon kid it was a joke I only meant it as a fun-

He hears giggling, when he rounds the corner, he looks up and sees that there is a crowd of children standing around the corner; laughing. They all have water balloons.

> DARRYL C'mon kids I was only play-

Darryl is bombarded by the balloons before he can continue he is now soaked again. The kids all burst out laughing.

The little kid was only a ruse. He is laughing with everyone else.

DARRYL Does everyone around here think that humiliation is funny?

There's a reply from behind him.

RIANA

No, just humility.

It is a beautiful woman, Riana. She shushes the kids. They all stop giggling aloud and continue doing it quietly. He is smitten by her beauty instantly. Time stands still. After a moment of dripping wetness the moment passes.

Darryl realizes that his pager is now ruined. It is dripping wet. He tosses it across the street. It bounces off the stop sign and scores in the trash can there.

RIANA

Nice shot!

DARRYL

I was aiming for that tree.

He points to the tree right in front of him.

RIANA It was still a nice shot. Hi, I'm Riana... Riana Riggs. I teach these little dust devils. It was nice meeting you.. Uh...

DARRYL Darryl, Darryl Johnson.

She waves good bye to him.

DARRYL

Wait!

RIANA

Yes?

DARRYL

I need you.

RIANA

Excuse me.

DARRYL I mean I need to know were the law office is.

RIANA Your kidding right?

She points back the way he came. He sees the signs above where Nathanial is sitting. He turns back to say thanks but she is leading the kids off into the large school building.

RIANA

Bye!

He stares after her and wanders into the street, where he is almost run down by Willard. Actually he rolls over the hood of Willard's car and lands on his butt.

> DARRYL Jesus Willard! You almost Ran me over!

Leaning his head out the window

WILLARD

Yup.

DARRYL This place is maddening.

Willard drives off towards the law office.

INT. LAW OFFICE - DAY

The law office is small but quaint stuffed to the brim with trophies, stuffed animals. There is a feeling of a quiet humbleness that permeates the air here. It is very scholarly. Rows of books line one of the walls.

There is a knock on the door. Darryl opens the door only to see that there is no one in. He shrugs and leaves.

EXT. RANCH HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Darryl pulls up to the ranch and watches for a little as more roping and horse riding is performed.

Turning around, Darryl notices that Tex is dusting off his hands and coming towards him.

TEX Did you see the Hagar?

DARRYL No, he wasn't in.

TEX That man, never in his office, but a whiz when it comes to legal mumbo jumbo.

DARRYL

He's good?

TEX

That's why he was Emmett's lawyer. I swear, Hagar should just move his office to the Ox Bow Stream.

DARRYL

Why is that?

TEX

Cause that's the best fishing in town, that's why. He's there nine times out of ten.

DARRYL Maybe I'll swing by there tomorrow.

TEX

I reckon you should. Listen some of the fellas feel awful bad about laughing so hard at' cha earlier.

DARRYL

Oh it's fine I've been real uptight lately and it's nuthin.

TEX

No really, we wanna take you out for a couple a drinks later on after the works all done.

DARRYL

Well that's mighty fine of you... That'll be great. Tex starts to walk away from Darryl towards the other ranch hands.

DARRYL

Hey Tex!

TEX

Yeah?

DARRYL Uh riding horses withstanding, is there anything I could help with?

TEX Actually yeah! How are you at roping?

Darryl shakes his head.

TEX

Wrangling?

Again nothing.

TEX

I just want you to take the left handed hornswoggle and pivot the real axle of the horse.

Tex smiles and points to the corral. Darryl starts to walk over there and then stops short.

DARRYL Wait a minute. Horses don't have axles. I'm on to you!

Tex slaps his leg and laughs heartily.

TEX Your a quick one alright!

C'mon lets see if we can't get some actual work out of these damn lazy bastards. Tex slaps Darryl's shoulder as they walk over to the corral.

EXT. CORRAL - MOMENTS LATER

They walk up to the fence and lean on it. There is a long horned steer loose in the pen and the ranch hands are all trying to bring it down.

Tex motions to the fence and sits atop it. Darryl reluctantly gets up there with him.

TEX

Nope.

DARRYL

Great.

They watch the wranglers all try and wrestle the steer to the ground with no luck. The steer keeps on running in circles he passes pretty close to the fence that Darryl is sitting on once or twice making him pick his legs up.

DARRYL

What are they doing?

TEX

This is where the rodeo came from. They have to drag that steer to the ground, only most of them are used to horses, we don't have a lot of big guys here.

DARRYL

(watching the steer) What'd you mean?

Darryl lifts his legs again as the steer passes. As the steer passes, it turns abruptly without Darryl seeing.

TEX

Most of the people that compete weigh in at about 215.

DARRYL Well count me out I'm only-

WHAM! The steer slams in to the fence. Knocking Tex of the back and Darryl forward into the Corral. The steer's horn catches Darryl's vest and Darryl is carried along dragged by the huge beast. Tex stands up and starts shouting.

TEX Get on him Darryl! Fight that brute!

Darryl is desperately trying to free himself from the horn. He grabs on to the big horn with both hands and tries to drag his vest off the horn. No luck.

The steers eyes are right near Darryl and they stare at each other in anger and fear.

Snot flies off the maddened beast, as it tries to trample and gore Darryl.

Meanwhile the ranch hands are running around again trying to get him off the steer.

Darryl grabs onto the neck of the thing and tries to use his heels to drag in the dirt.

His one hand around the steers neck his other still trying to free his vest he is now is the best vantage point to bring that sucker down.

Darryl heaves with all his might.

The Steer drops to the side following its twisting neck. They both go flailing, creating a cloud of dust. Everyone goes silent.

Everyone comes up to survey the damage and see if he's dead. As the dust settles Darryl is holding the Steer down with it's own weight.

He unhooks his vest and looks around. The steer lies there breathing heavily, worn out, the ranch hands all stand around him. He stands up and dusts himself off.

They all cheer loudly. There are many hand claps and back slaps. Everyone is talking and shouting.

TEX Hot Dog! That was amazing. I have never seen a green horn like you take down that size of a thing so fast. It's like your uncle Emmett was helping you all along.

DARRYL (still amazed) Huh? What about uncle Emmett?

TEX

Why that was his best competition and in ten seconds you did what four of our guys couldn't. You took the bull by the horns that time.

DARRYL (smiling broadly) Well it's in my blood!

There is much more hand slapping and back clapping as Darryl walks up towards the ranch house.

He gets to the other side of the barn, makes sure that no one can see him and his grin turns into a grimace.

DARRYL

Oww Oww Oww Owww Owww!

He rubs his butt in pain and whimpers. He rubs thighs finally checking his balls for damage. He checks himself all over to make sure that he's still there.

He against the wall and immediately leaps back up in pain. He limps the rest of the way to the ranch house.

INT. RANCH HOUSE KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Darryl, still rubbing his tender ass, walks in to the kitchen looking around.

DARRYL

Lily!

He shrugs and sees a note on the fridge: GONE TO THE MARKET HELP YOUR SELF TO THE FRIDGE.

Darryl opens the fridge and fishes out a carton of OJ. He starts to chug from the carton.

HAVE FUN AT THE BAR. DON'T DRINK OUT OF THE CARTON -- LILY

Surprised he grumbles and grabs a glass. He grabs something to eat, and watches as the sun sets again behind the valley walls.

It is beautiful, for the first time in his life, darryl is starting to feel relaxed. The moment is broken by a knock on the door.

> TEX Hey! Darryl! You snoozin? You didn't take a bump on the noggin did ya?

DARRYL Oh no I was just admiring the sunset.

TEX What? They don't have them out in Sea-attle?

DARRYL They don't have the sun.

Tex laughs.

TEX Be ready to go in a half an hour. We're gonna take you to our favorite bar.

Tex stands there a moment more.

DARRYL What's up Tex?

TEX

I just wanted to tell you that you handled that Steer like a professional and we're sure glad to have you. You're gonna take this ranch places.

Tex turns to go before Darryl can answer.

DARRYL But... I'm not staying.

The sun goes down just as he says this. The kitchen is dark.

FADE TO:

EXT. MARLBOROUGH MAN BAR AND GRILL - NIGHT

Every car in the parking lot is a truck. There's neon signs for BUD and COORS blinking in the window. The NEON SIGN is a lasso twirling sexy cowgirl with big breasts and a huge smile.

The joint is jumping and music can be heard coming from the inside.

INT. MARLBOROUGH MAN BAR AND GRILL - CONTINUOUS

Darryl enters and looks around the joint. It is smoky and full of rowdy patrons. There is sawdust on the floor and a jukebox pumping out rock and country western.

Darryl sees that the ranch hands are all over towards the wall at a booth. He waves. They all cheer. He motions towards the bar and goes to get himself a drink.

He sidles up to the full bar and sidesteps a dancing pair of drunks. The place is packed. All of the customers wear their good clothes, new jeans, pressed shirts and all look like they are having a good time.

The bartender looks at him.

BARTENDER What'll it be?

DARRYL Oh a cosmopolitan.

BARTENDER

Huh?

DARRYL A cosmopolitan.

The bartender looks at him for a moment and then shrugs.

DARRYL It's vodka, Cranberry juice an-

The bartender grabs the vodka puts some juice in it and hands him the glass. Darryl looks at it for a second and fishes a twenty out of his pocket.

BARTENDER

Two fifty!

DARRYL

How much?

BARTENDER

Two fifty!

DARRYL Well alright!

He s; laps the bill down smacking a puddle of something on the bar. The bartender stares at him, waiting.

DARRYL

Keep the change.

Immediately the bartender changes his attitude and shakes Darryl's hand.

BARTENDER

I'm sorry we don't get many celebrities in here Mr. Snipes. I really liked you in the Vampire movie. I ain't never seen a movie star before!

Confused Darryl nods and turns away. He ambles over to the small booth with the Ranch hands and Tex. They all have huge glasses of beer in front of them.

Darryl looks at his drink embarrassed. He looks down the table, everyone is laughing and having a good time. He "accidentally" drops his drink to the floor. There is the sound of breaking glass. Darryl looks up and sees that Tex is looking towards him. Tex winks.

DARRYL

Uh, who needs a round?

They all cheer.

DARRYL Well ok, I'll just go back up to the bar and grabs some beers, I have celebrity status here.

He stands up practically knocking the waitress over. One of the beers on the tray spills down the back of Darryl's shirt soaking it.

Apologizing profusely, he turns around to see that the waitress in none other than Riana.

RIANA Well howdy pardoner! Looks like you just cant keep from getting wet today.

DARRYL It's you! Riana!

RIANA And YOU! Darryl right?

DARRYL Yeah, how'd you know my name?

RIANA Cause you introduced yourself earlier.

DARRYL Oh. Right. Listen I hate to be a bother but do you have a towel or anything?

Darryl pulls the clingy shirt away from his body and looks at her pleadingly.

RIANA (pinching his cheeks) How can I say no to that cute face. EXT. MARLBOROUGH MAN BAR AND GRILL - MOMENTS LATER

They step out the back door of the bar. There's a huge big laundry bin full of new dishrags and kitchen towels. a dumpster towards their left and a bug zapper above the trash that crackles incessantly.

> RIANA Your just lucky that we got this shipment in from the laundry, we haven't had any for like a week.

DARRYL I thought you worked at the school?

RIANA I do but I need to make money somehow. I gotta pay the rent.

DARRYL (offended) They don't pay you?

She laughs. Darryl is busy trying to towel off the back of his shirt with no success.

RIANA It was either they pay me or they buy schoolbooks for the kids. I chose the school books. Besides I've got all the money I need and working for these jack asses helps keep me in check.

Now it's Darryl's turn to laugh.

DARRYL So you have no problem being broke?

RIANA

I resent that.

DARRYL No I didn't mean it like that. I

just know a lot of people who use money like its their jobs. They shop everyday and twice a day on the weekends. (MORE)

DARRYL (cont'd)

And then when you get a couple of buck to by yourself none of those great Philly cheese steaks that are imported from Philadelphia and she needs the money for a magazine or she takes your last dollar to get a soda so that you can't even get coffee from the cute girl that works down stair-

Riana is staring at him funny.

RIANA That sounds like a great snatch.

DARRYL Oh she's a snatch all right...

They pause for a moment. She grabs the towel.

RIANA

Lemme help you!

She starts toweling off his back for him rubbing along his shoulders. He winces.

RIANA What's wrong with your shoulder?

DARRYL

It's my joint. It's a little out of whack, I got thrown from a huge bull today... And that was after getting hosed by your devilish kids.

She grabs his shoulders and, using her knee, drives his middle back forward. He yelps and then rotates his joints in awe. He stares at her. They have a moment.

The door slams open and a huge burly guy comes out and vomits on his own shoes.

DARRYL

Good god!

RIANA (to the drunk) I told you what would happen if you mixed Budweiser and Boilermakers.

She pats him on the back and leads the guy inside. Darryl stands there for a moment and then proceeds inside.

INT. MARLBOROUGH MAN BAR AND GRILL - MOMENTS LATER

He catches up to her as she's laying the guy down in a booth that has recently become vacant. A line dance has started.

DARRYL

Uh, Riana.

She turns expectantly.

RIANA

Yes?

DARRYL Uh. I need a couple of beers for my table.

She smiles weakly, not what she wanted to hear. Or what he wanted to say.

RIANA Coming right up.

He goes back to the table. All of the ranchers are staring expectantly.

DARRYL

What?

TEX Well usually when a guy disappears with a pretty filly like that, there's a good time going on someplace.

DARRYL I'll ask you to stay out of my business.

TEX Well jeez son all you had to do is...

Darryl has a sly smile on his mouth. Tex sees this and bursts out laughing.

TEX You sly dog. You got me good son! You got me good. But what's the deal with her I though t that you were already getting...

He falls silent as Riana steps up with some glasses.

RIANA Here we go beers on me, this time since it was on Darryl before.

They all burst out with a cheer and start laughing including Darryl who can't help but smile.

TEX Well shucks Riana, if I knew that was the case I'd a been bumping into you every time I came!

RIANA You'll get nothing and like it.

She sets down an extremely large beer in front of Darryl and smiles broadly at him.

RIANA Sorry about the shirt Darryl.

DARRYL

It's nothing.

They smile. She walks away shaking her butt. Darryl watches her go.

TEX You sly dog you! No one gets glasses on a Saturday night. We are sittin pretty boys. Our new boss is leading us to the good life.

Darryl laughs along but stops shortly and gets silent. He sits for a second.

DARRYL how'd you get the name Tex, or were your parents Wild Bill and Annie Oakley?

Tex laughs.

TEX Actually I'm from Louisiana. But I'll be damned if people call me Louise!

They laugh at this. Downing some beer.

INT. MARLBOROUGH MAN BAR AND GRILL - LATER

There are numerous empty beers on the table. The crowd has thinned a little and most of those here are the heavy drinkers. There seems to be more men than ladies, as those on dates have gone on to do better things.

Tex and the gang are singing a prairie song and whooping like coyotes. Darryl is swaying in his chair. He is slightly inebriated.

DARRYL This is the greatest time I've ever had!

He joins in to the singing and sways with the rest of them.

There is a crash from the bar. Darryl ignores it, thinking that it's a bar glass or something.

Suddenly the bar goes quiet. REGGIE FALSTAFF, is standing at the bar facing Riana. She Looks him in the face defiantly, standing about a foot lower than him. It is almost comical if not for the angry look in Reggie's eyes.

> REGGIE I said that my credit had better be good here or something might get hurt.

> > RIANA

Listen you small dicked, mother chicken plucker. If the bartender says your flagged until you pay your tab... Then you are flagged until you pay your tab! Is this not getting through?

Reggie smashes his fist on the bar making four or five people jump. He breathes hard looking like he's going to turn into the hulk. After a few seconds he calms down and turns back towards Riana.

REGGIE

What the hell Riana? You sure are acting funny lately. Can't a fellow get himself a drink without his girlfriend telling him what to do?

RIANA

I told you that I'm okay with you drinking, I'm okay with you fighting, and puking and being an all around jerk off. You know why? (MORE)

RIANA (cont'd)

Cause we're not together anymore. I can't be with someone who treats people the way you do you asshole! You have no respect for anything or anyone that can't out drink, out belch or out fart you. You make me sick.

At that Reggie looms over her like he's gonna do something stupid. Darryl tries to stand up but Tex won't let him. Darryl shrugs Tex's hand off and stands up.

DARRYL

Excuse me.

REGGIE

What?

Reggie scans the whole bar in his drunkenness, he finally focuses on the two Darryl's that are standing there.

DARRYL I think she's had enough of your brand of fun.

REGGIE Who the hell are you?

DARRYL

That's not what I said is it? I said that she's not interested in a semantic argument about what together means or if she's screwing someone else. (to Riana) No offense.

She looks at him oddly.

RIANA

None taken.

REGGIE Don't talk to him!

RIANA I'll do what I want to! As a matter of fact I got a date with him tomorrow!

REGGIE AND DARRYL

What?
(to Reggie) You heard me! We're going out tomorrow, and if he's lucky I might just jump his bones!

REGGIE AND DARRYL

Whaaaat?

RIANA So take you three inch "monster" and beat it!

Darryl stands taller as Reggie approaches him. Behind him, the ranch crew stands up at their table with a menacing look in their eyes. Reggie sees takes all of this in, looks at Darryl and pokes him in the chest.

> REGGIE We are not done here ass hole!

DARRYL Your wit is astounding. As is your grasp of the English language.

Darryl turns towards the guys and sees them all sitting and drinking their beer.

DARRYL

(shouting) C'mon, is this a bar or a funeral?

The music starts up again and conversation goes on. The table of rancher starts singing again and everything is back to normal.

Darryl goes over to help Riana clean up the mess.

DARRYL Was that imbecilic of me?

RIANA Yeah and it was stupid too!

They giggle.

DARRYL I suppose he's the ex?

RIANA

Yup.

They continue cleaning.

RIANA Command of the English language.

DARRYL

I got nothing.

They both laugh, relieving the tension that they feel.

DARRYL I.. Uh... I...

RIANA

So what time is our date tomorrow?

DARRYL

You were serious?

RIANA

Maybe more than you think. I've never jumped someone's bones on the first date anyway, but this could be a good time to start.

Darryl stares at her shocked.

RIANA I'm just kidding, jeez! What kind of girl do you think I am?

DARRYL No i... Uh... Well.

Tex slaps Darryl on the back, startling him. Darryl looks up at Tex.

TEX You ready to go? We gotta lot work to do in the morning.

DARRYL Oh yeah, I'll be right there.

He turns back to Riana who is finishing up. They both stand at the same time. Tex walks off. Suddenly, she kisses him on the lips.

> DARRYL Well uh, I guess I'll see you tomorrow.

RIANA I guess you will.

Darryl turns around and moseys towards the door.

RIANA

Bye Darryl!

He turns back to see her and slams into the door frame. Rubbing his head, he leaves. She smiles and keeps cleaning.

INT. RANCH HOUSE KITCHEN - LATER

Darryl stands at the table eating a hearty late night dinner. Lily putters about in the kitchen preparing odd assortments of more food.

DARRYL

(to Lily) And then I landed the steer with such force that the horn was a foot into the ground. They said I was like Paul Bunyan or John henry. It was great.

LILY Sounds like you had an exciting day.

DARRYL It was great. Hey do you know a girl named Riana?

LILY Oh yeah the School Teacher... She's nice. She has good birthing hips.

DARRYL

What?

LILY I said that she has good birthing hips.

DARRYL Oh... I'm not sure I know how to respond. What about her exboyfriend?

LILY Who, Reggie? Reggie Falstaff has a thing for her but he's a brute. She's...

DARRYL (dreamy) Wonderful. Lily looks at him curiously, Darryl clears his throat <ahem> and turns back to his food. Lily nods and turns back to her preparations.

DARRYL

So... My Fiancee, she's very nice. She's from New Jersey... She doesn't want kids though. She actually had her tubes tied when she was sixteen!... IN high school! What does that mean?

LILY That she slept around.

DARRYL But she was a virgin when we got together.

Lily nods and turns back to her cooking.

DARRYL

What? What? Oh never mind talking about her makes me tense.

He sits there for a few moments eating. He looks around the kitchen.

DARRYL What was my uncle like?

LILY

Oh. uhm, he was creative and smart and nice and happy and he thought of others and he never turned anyone away. Half of those bums out there, working this ranch, owe their entire lives to Emmett. He believed in people.

DARRYL Really? That's something I never get the chance to do.

LILY

What?

DARRYL

Believe in people. Everyone wanders around like their are alone on this planet. No one looks when they cross the street like some cosmic force is keeping them all safe. (MORE)

DARRYL (cont'd)

There's no honesty anymore, no integrity and hard work... It used to get you places... But now, it's just a quick way to an early grave, worrying about things that don't matter in the long run.

LILY

I think it's time for your bed.

DARRYL I'm fine. I'll be upstairs though I'm not tired. Thanks for the uh... snack.

LILY Good night Darryl.

DARRYL

Night.

INT. RANCH HOUSE BEDROOM - NIGHT

Darryl lays there staring up at the ceiling. He gets up and paces about the room. He is obviously agitated.

He sees a light on in the room next to his. He knocks.

DARRYL (quietly) Lily?

There is no answer. With a quick glance around he makes sure no one is watching him and he slowly opens the door into a large den. Inside is a veritable shrine to cowboy history. There are old portraits and diaries. Gilded Winchester rifles, a six shooter, spurs; the works.

There are Rodeo trophies around the room, photos of cowboys, photos of horses and cattle and in the center above a huge fireplace, a huge portrait of Uncle Emmett.

Fascinated, he starts wandering around the room. There is a lasso on the wall, right next to it is a whip. Which Darryl takes down and starts playing with.

Darryl stands in the middle of the room holding the whip. He thinks he's Indiana Jones. He twirls it around his head. He snaps it out and almost cuts off his ear.

DARRYL Ok! Time to put that down.

He puts it back and in turn grabs the lasso. He starts playing with it. Jumping in and out. He twirls it in an acrobatic motion, creating a spinning vortex which he jumps in and out of.

After a minute of excellent lariat motion, he sees himself in the mirror. He is amazed, he slowly puts it down and stares at himself in the mirror. The mirror is a full length huge mirror that rests on a closet door, the door is unseen though. He looks like a different person, wearing chaps and a vest and a plaid shirt. He smiles at himself for the first time in years.

He throws the lasso back on the wall, surprisingly, it lands exactly where it supposed to go.

He moseys up to the mirror in his best cowboy swagger.

DARRYL

(like John Wayne) "Well howdy pilgrim. I don't feel we did wrong in taking this great country away from them There were great numbers of people who needed new land, and the Indians were selfishly trying to keep it for themselves."

He chuckles to himself.

DARRYL John Wayne was such an asshole!

In the reflection he sees a huge stand with a large book on it. Curious he wanders over and starts flipping through it. There is a large gold place-mark sticking out of the back he goes to it.

At the place-mark, is the last picture, followed by pages of blank black paper. The picture is that of his father in a business suit, his uncle Emmett and a small boy and girl on each of their knee. The boy is Darryl, the girl is Angela. They all sit with a happy look, except for Darryl's father, who looks sad and worried; an expression of despair on his face.

At the bottom of the page is a notation: Emmett, JACK, ANGELA AND "COYOTE DARRYL".

DARRYL Coyote Darryl? What does that mean?

He turns the page. On the previous page is a picture of Darryl's Father Jack much younger, in their teens.

Emmett is also much younger and stands over a roped calf. Jack does not look happy in the least. Darryl looks at the caption: Emmett, JACK AND THEIR FIRST RODEO.

Darryl starts looking at more pictures. Emmett on the farm, Emmett and Jack at the 4-H show, at the state fair. In each one, Darryl's father Jack looks sad and out of place.

DARRYL What the heck? Dad lived out here?

The further he goes, the further back in time he goes. Jack and Emmett get younger and younger. Soon they are babies. It is Darryl's grandfather. Then his Great granddad. They all have Cowboy outfits on and wear smiles on their faces.

DARRYL

Hang on a second.

He checks the front of the book, the title of the book says: A PICTURE HISTORY OF THE JOHNSON FAMILY.

DARRYL These people aren't from Pennsylvania.

He checks the dates on the pictures. There are pictures from as far back as 1879. He sees some civil war outfits. The horse brigade. Various pictures from various historical points. He slowly follows the lineage back towards the oldest and most tattered picture: a grainy black and white, fading picture of a filthy man, standing, smiling, in front of a worn-out looking horse pack horse.

Darryl looks at the caption and reads: Darryl JOHNSON, 1845, Darryl BUYS HIS FIRST HORSE.

Darryl, stands there looking at the man in the photo who resembles him a little bit. He is definitely related to this man. He suddenly gets the chills and looks around the room at the various implements of being a cowboy. His family history comes rushing at him and he gets a little claustrophobic.

DARRYL

This is a little too weird.

He sees a desk blotter on the huge oak desk in front of him. His name is circled.

His name is circled in red. He realizes that the date on the blotter was a month ago.

He moves towards the door looks one last time at the picture of his Uncle Emmett and loses the door with a final click.

CUT TO:

EXT. RANCH HOUSE BALCONY - NIGHT

Darryl stands on the balcony overlooking the ranch. It is a wide deck, framed by a wood cut railing. It is very chilly and Darryl has a coat on. There is a full moon shining down. It illuminates the horses in the fields and the area around the ranch. Horses graze and shuffle their feet. A lone horse gallops across the flats in a sudden burst of energy.

A match flares up, brilliant in the night and Darryl lights a cigarette. He takes a few drags and surveys the scene.

After a few moments of puffing, the door slides open behind Darryl.

UNCLE EMMETT (O.S.) Isn't it beautiful?

DARRYL

Yes.

UNCLE EMMETT You smoke?

DARRYL I quit a while ago, I have one every once in a while.

UNCLE EMMETT Vile disgusting habit.

DARRYL

Yeah I know.

UNCLE EMMETT Do you have another one?

Darryl smiles and gives his uncle a cigarette.

UNCLE EMMETT Lily nagged me constantly and always threw mine away.

Emmett lights up his cigarette. They stand there watching the horses shuffle around in the dark.

DARRYL Did you know? UNCLE EMMETT Know what? That she was gonna throw my dang cigarettes away?

DARRYL No, that you were going to die?

UNCLE EMMETT We're all gonna die Darryl. It's more important to live.

DARRYL Yeah I know that.

UNCLE EMMETT I don't think you do. What do you have to be happy about?

DARRYL Plenty... I have a great wife named Riana and an awesome job and...

UNCLE EMMETT You said Riana.

DARRYL No I didn't , I said Rhonda. I definitely said Rhonda.

UNCLE EMMETT Don't lie to the dead Darryl, they don't deserve it. And usually they can't argue.

DARRYL Yeah well... (beat) What were you thinking? Why me?

UNCLE EMMETT

You saw the book. You know that our family has been wranglers and cowboys for five generations. I don't want to see that die out.

DARRYL

But I'm not a cowboy. I'm an accountant. And why in hell did dad say we were from Pennsylvania?

UNCLE EMMETT

Because he wanted a different life. He thought that using your hands to make a living was demeaning; (MORE) UNCLE EMMETT (cont'd) that he was above it. It's honest work. It's good work. Sure we may be simpler in life but we're more honest with each other and with ourselves. Did you know that one in three cowboy's was black? There were opportunities out here that would never exist. You start to learn every day what you can and can't do. You never set limits for yourself.

DARRYL I have a life! I'm going back to that life.

UNCLE EMMETT Then don't let me stop you.

DARRYL I can't believe a dead guy is arguing with me.

UNCLE EMMETT I'm not even here Darryl. Look.

Emmett points towards the bed where Darryl is tossing and turning. The Darryl in the bed sits up with a start.

He looks towards the open window out to the balcony and rubs his eyes. He stands up and walks over towards the balcony. The sun is starting to come up. He slides open the door and steps gingerly pout onto the chilly porch. He looks around trying to expunge the odd dream. His eyes fall on something.

There is a cigarette smoking in the ash tray on the railing. He goes over to it and picks it up., The cigarette is not smoking, it has been out for a long time. It is yellowed with age.

DARRYL

I'm going crazy.

He goes back inside and looks at his bed.

DARRYL Yeah, like I can sleep now.

INT. RANCH HOUSE KITCHEN - MORNING

Lily is frying some home fries in the skillet. There isn't any food on the table and Darryl notices.

LILY Good morning, Mr. Darryl.

DARRYL Morning Lily. You're up early.

LILY It's after six.

DARRYL Oh yeah farm living.

Darryl sits down at the table.

DARRYL So what's the ranch doing today?

LILY There's a horse auction in a little bit at the state fair.

DARRYL What like a rodeo?

LILY Yeah well its a tradition that Emmett usually went, but now that he's gone... I don't know if going is so important now.

DARRYL Well isn't tradition on the motto of the ranch.

Lily stares out of the window.

LILY Yes, I suppose.

As lily stares out the window the fries on the skillet start burning.

DARRYL Lily do you smell some-

He sees the fries which turns into a grease fire.

DARRYL

Lily!

Startled, she freaks out. Darryl runs over and grabs the extinguisher. After a blast of smoke and flame retardant, a quiet sobbing can be heard. When the dust clears, Lily is sobbing against the stove.

LILY (breaking down) I'm sorry Darryl.. I just.

Darryl smooths her hair.

DARRYL

It's alright.

LILY Its' not all right. The ranch is going to be sold, and for the first time I'm starting to realize that Emmett isn't going to knock on the front door. He's gone.

She starts sobbing on his shoulder and he tries his best to comfort her.

DARRYL Shhh. Everything will be fine. I'll make sure that you have a nice payment to live on. Maybe you could come and live with me in Seattle?

She sobs fresh and starts wailing.

LILY

This ranch is more important than money. I don't care what happens.

She cries for a little bit more. Darryl keeps comforting her. She notices the eggs. He looks at the eggs that were cooking that are now covered in fire retardant.

> DARRYL Well, I wasn't THAT hungry anyway. I've eaten enough of your cooking to last me quite a while.

They giggle. Darryl smooths her hair back from her face and dabs her eyes with a kitchen towel.

DARRYL It'll be fine you'll do ok.

LILY Go on, you don't want to hang out with some old weepy woman all day, there's work to be done.

She smiles and Darryl smiles back. He grabs his hat and heads towards the door. As he leaves. Her smile turns back into a frown.

LILY Oh, Emmett, I hope you chose right.

EXT. RANCH HOUSE - MORNING

Darryl surveys the scene. Most of the ranch hands are already up and about. There are horses being corralled, cows being hauled onto a huge truck. There seems to be an air of excitement. Tex is standing by the main fence, shouting orders to the ranch hands. He is constantly checking his watch. Every once in a while he jumps in and gives a heave where one is needed.

TEX

Come on you slack jaws! You can't go any slower if you were made from molasses and it was January.

Tex notices Darryl and waves him over.

TEX Hey Darryl! C'mon we could use your help.

DARRYL Sure what do I have to do?

TEX Do you see those horses over there?

DARRYL Oh no! I dealt with one more crazy horse this weekend than I was

Tex laughs.

TEX

supposed to.

No these beauties are being judged for their looks and their hides. They need to be put on that big horse trailer right over there. Man! (wiping his brow) This would be so much easier to do if your uncle was here.

After an uncomfortable pause, Darryl leads the huge mare over towards the Truck.

He tries coaxing the horse up onto the trailer, but it won't budge. He tries pulling it. He tries pushing it's side.

The horse starts walking backwards.

DARRYL No! Wrong way horse.

He gets frustrated and tires to drag, push, pull, he even swats it on the ass. The horse stomps it's feet in anger and Darryl jumps back.

> DARRYL Sorry. C'mon, please. Look, here's some hay. Be a good girl.

He tries leading the horse up and finally it moves. He offers it hay and stands there for a moment petting it. During this quaint moment it drops out some poop.

> DARRYL Hey those things look like apples... HORSE apples!

He pets the horse for a few more seconds and then gets off the trailer securing it with a crossbar.

DARRYL Whew that was hard.

He looks over at Tex who sees him and points over towards the fence. There are fifteen more horses stomping and shuffling their feet.

DARRYL

Oh jeez.

EXT. RANCH HOUSE - LATER

The truck is full and Darryl is sweating and perspiring. He closes the latch on the last horse and sits back.

DARRYL Damn that was hard.

He sees that everyone else is still working and going about their business. Reluctantly he stands to his feet and heads towards the house. As Darryl goes he calls back over his shoulder to no one in particular.

> DARRYL I'll be inside if anyone needs me.

INT. RANCH HOUSE BATHROOM - LATER

Darryl is washing his face in the bathroom. He checks himself out in the mirror.

LILY (O.S.) Darryl! There's a phone call for you.

DARRYL I'll be right down Lily.

INT. RANCH HOUSE KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

He gets downstairs, and sees that Lily is standing there, with the phone in her hand.

DARRYL Feeling better.

LILY It's a wonder what a good dose of coffee can do for your spirits.

Darryl smiles at her as he takes the phone.

DARRYL

Yello?

RIANA You ready for our big date?

DARRYL

Oh... uh, hey!

He looks at Lily and shoos her away. She looks at him, rolls her eyes and goes off.

DARRYL (into phone) Uhm, hey! I have to tell you something...

RIANA So where are you takin me?

DARRYL Oh, uh. I don't know. Are you going to the fair?

RIANA I'd love to go to the fair! But don't you think that's more of a third-date date? DARRYL Oh, uh, I didn't mean, I'm sorry, I've never been to one.

RIANA Calm down, you'll give yourself a heart attack.

DARRYL That's what I'm afraid of.

RIANA Ok, see you at two, the rodeo starts in a half hour but nothing exciting happens 'til this afternoon. Bye cutie pie!

DARRYL

Bye Riana.

He hangs up the phone and looks at the huge buffalo head in the hallway.

DARRYL

I'm doomed.

INT. RANCH HOUSE BEDROOM - LATER

Darryl looks through his Uncle's old books of family history. He flips to page after page of family Bronco busting and bare back riding.

Lily come in.

LILY I'm just gonna make the bed. Is that ok?

DARRYL

Did you know that one out of three cowboys n the west was black?

LILY

Yes. Emmett told me stuff like that all the time, he was a walking dictionary of black western cultural history.

Darryl looks down at the book.

DARRYL Why did my dad move to Seattle? LILY

Emmett and your father had a feud. Emmett was happiest ranching and roping. Jack wanted nothing more than to go to school and get out. He was not a happy man, your father.

DARRYL

Well... Yeah I guess you're right.

LILY

Whenever he was here he acted like it was hell on earth, and Emmett was the grand high pubah devil.

DARRYL

That's pretty funny, I can't see dad coming out here in his black suits. The only other color he had was a grey charcoal suit that he wore on special occasions. My mom always said that if anyone died he'd be automatically ready for their funeral.

LILY

What was your excuse? Why have you never been out here?

DARRYL

I used to come out a lot when we were kids, my mom loved bringing us. Me and my sister. But then there was one time... Something happened... It was awful, for the life of me I can't remember.

LILY

It'll come to you. I'm glad your here. I just wish you were staying.

DARRYL

Oh, lily. That's not true.

LILY

Isn't it? When are you leaving?

DARRYL

Tomorrow morning.

LILY Well I'm glad that I met you Darryl, I'm sure you will be successful in life.

DARRYL (sadly) Thanks.

She finishes tidying up the bed and leaves. Darryl sits there for a moment. His Foot kicks something under the bed. He reaches down and pulls out a shoe box. He shakes it. There is a slight rattle. He opens it and faints dead away. It is a rattle snake.

INT. RANCH HOUSE BEDROOM - LATER

Darryl slowly wakes up like it was a bad dream. He looks over at the box, it seems empty. He thinks the snake must be loose. But, as he sits up further, he sees that the rattle snake is in the same position.

In fact, the thing hasn't moved an inch. He slowly reaches for it expecting it to leap out and grab him at anytime. His hand gets closer and closer, he reaches past the open mouth of the snake. It looks alive like it could bite at any time.

Bang! There's a knock on the door startling Darryl and almost giving him a heart attack. He shrieks. Flies back five feet from the snake and lands on the opposite side of the bed falling off.

Lily pokes her head in.

LILY I'm going to the store do you need anything.

DARRYL Some anti-insanity medicine.

LILY

Ok.

She leaves. Darryl Looks over at the snake. It sits menacing in the shoebox that held it before. He grabs a riding crop from the desk and pokes the rattle snake. It doesn't move. He pokes it again forcefully. Nothing happens. He gets bolder and decides to pick it up. The brown plaque that it sits on comes with it. The snake has been stuffed.

Darryl breathes a sigh of relief. He inspects the horrid creature. It stares at him with glassy lifelike eyes.

DARRYL

What the-

He sees a small brass placard on the base of the rattle snake. It says: To Darryl- From Uncle Emmett. 07/10/73

Darryl stares at the date confused for a moment. Then recognition starts to dawn.

DARRYL (to himself) That was the last time I was here!. He stuffed it for me? No way! I can't believe it.

He sets the Rattlesnake down on the bed and stares at it.

DARRYL

You aren't so tough now are you? You can scare a little boy ! But now that you're all dead! What'd you got? You got nothing

He jumps to his feet and starts cheering to himself.

DARRYL Yes! YES! Uncle Emmett you are the MAN!

Lily pops her head in, confused.

LILY What's going on?

DARRYL

This snake, this vile serpent from the devil, made me break my arm when I was ten. It' made my horse rear up tossing me from the saddle to the ground. I broke my arm because this stupid fanged beast had the stupid, stupid temerity to rush across the trail right in front of me.

Lily stares at the ranting, raving Darryl, wondering if she should call for the looney bin.

LILY Are you okay? DARRYL

Ok? To quote Tony the Tiger; "I'm grrrrrreat!" I haven't felt better in years. This snake caused me such pain and torture in that summer that I swore if I could find it I would kill and stuff it and put it on my mantle as a warning to any other snake that dared cross me.

Lily keeps staring.

LILY So you're ok?

DARRYL I'm fantastic! Where's that creek that Mr. Hagar goes fishing at?

LILY

Ox bow?

DARRYL Yeah that's it.

It's out on highway fifteen.

DARRYL

Thanks!

He rushes past her without another word. She watches him go, looks at the snake, shakes her head and closes the door.

EXT. OX BOW CREEK - DAY

The creek is lovely, it stretches out in silent beauty babbling and flowing. A few fishermen stand casting their lures lazily into the water.

Darryl on top of the bridge calls down.

DARRYL

Hey!

The fishermen look around them in confusion.

DARRYL

Up here!

The four fishermen look up towards Darryl.

DARRYL Are any of you Mr. Hagar? Darryl turns back to his car. A car pulls up. It is Willard's yellow Beetle.

WILLARD Howdy Darryl.

DARRYL Hey Willard.

WILLARD What's wrong.

DARRYL You wouldn't understand.

WILLARD

Try me.

DARRYL I feel bad having to close the ranch. It forces everyone out and.. They have a good thing there. And lily is so wonderful and...

Darryl stops and looks at Willard.

DARRYL What am I telling you all this for? Damn it!

Darryl gets into his car and drives off Willard reaches in to his car and pulls out his fishing tackle.

EXT. SCHOOL HOUSE - LATER

Darryl pulls up and goes up to the front door. He peers into the dingy window, the kids are watching a film on coyotes. Riana sits in the back with a child of seven on her lap. Darryl taps on the window to get Riana's attention. She doesn't see him. He taps harder. Nothing. He taps even harder.

The entire class turns and looks at him. He ducks out of sight... Then embarrassed he leans back into the window and smiles. The kid all laugh. Riana shushes them and gets up to see what the problem is.

Riana comes out to the porch. The kids all crowd to the window to see what's going on.

RIANA What is it Darryl? Is something wrong.

DARRYL

Yeah, this town for one thing. This place is not normal, no one here cares about money, everyone knows each other, there's weird stuff going on here. It's nothing like Seattle.

RIANA

Isn't that a good thing?

DARRYL

No... Yes... I mean, it's fine, I just don't know what to do. I can't just leave my life behind.

RIANA

No one is asking you to Darryl. That ranch, your uncle this town. None of it matter if you aren't happy. Don't you realize that?

DARRYL

No, my whole life has been culminating towards a life in an office, I can't just turn around and throw that out the window. As exciting as it may be.

RIANA So instead, you've be perfectly willing to leave and go back? Would you be happy?

DARRYL

I think so. I have a wi... (catching himself) Wild time there. There's culture and parties and success.

RIANA

And you need that to be happy?

DARRYL Yes, I mean no, I mean... I don't know what I mean.

Riana notices the kids in the window and shoos them away. They all giggle.

RIANA

Look, can we talk about this later? I have to make sure these guys learn something today.

DARRYL

Oh, yeah! I'm sorry,, it's just that I'm not sure what I'm doing.

RIANA

That's perfectly fine. You don't have to plan the future you just have to live it.

DARRYL Ok, I'll see you later, are you coming to the house?

RIANA Anytime I can hobnob with the cultured and wealthy I make it a necessary task in my day.

Darryl laughs knowing she's being sarcastic.

DARRYL I'll see you at four.

RIANA I'll be waiting with bells on.

EXT. RANCH HOUSE - LATER

Darryl pulls up and sees that Tex is preparing for the rodeo.

DARRYL

Hey Tex!

TEX Darryl! How are ya son?

DARRYL Aren't you supposed to be at the rodeo.

TEX Our ranch's event isn't until this afternoon. I have time. The big question is are you ready?

DARRYL For what?

TEX

You ready to ride tonight?

DARRYL What? No! I'm not the type, thanks though.

TEX Haw, you are a funny one, you almost got me again.

DARRYL

I'm serious.

TEX What do you mean?

DARRYL

About riding? I'm not going to ride any animal at the rodeo. I'm only going to see it.

TEX

But it's a tradition, you have to ride tonight, everyone expects it! Your uncle always-

DARRYL

Tradition? Everyone's been talking about tradition! I'm not my Uncle! I'm a glorified accountant. And if you think I'm gonna break my neck just so that the citizens of some podunk town can have some gladiatorial fun... You are wrong. I'm sorry that you think that I'm staying but I have to go. I'm gonna go home. It's been real but you've just convinced me that I can't possibly stay and keep my old life. It's one or the other and there's no way. I'm sorry.

TEX

Well then you sure aren't the tough guy that I thought you were.

DARRYL Tough? I let my girlfriend, sorry, fiancee; run my life! I let my boss walk all over me! (MORE) DARRYL (cont'd) I'll probably be dead from congestive heart failure by the time I'm forty, which is five years from now and you think I'm a sissy because I don't want to quit all that? No it doesn't mean that I'm a sissy, it means that I'm crazy!

TEX Whoa there. Forget it. You don't have the balls to do it anyway.

Tex gets into his truck and drives off in a cloud of dust.

DARRYL

Damn it!

He looks around, no one can hear him. The only one present is the Steer that he took down earlier.

DARRYL Screw you big Mac.

INT. RANCH HOUSE BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Darryl puts on some clothes. He is staring to get the hang of dressing in western attire. He looks at himself in the mirror and smiles, he looks good. He then sees himself in a suit coat and tie, he frowns. He is going crazy. His suit coat reflection looks at him sadly.

DARRYL

What?

The suit coat shakes his head.

DARRYL WHAT? Good lord I'm talking to myself. I really am going mental.

LILY (O.S.) Darryl someone is here to see you!

DARRYL Great. I can't believe you are doing this. This is bad. (to Lily) Coming.

He starts out of his room.

INT. RANCH HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

At the top of the steps he sees Lily rubbing her hands.

LILY She is not a pleasant woman.

DARRYL What do you mean? Riana's great she-

Half way down he almost trips and breaks his neck down the stairs. Rhonda's voice has startled him.

RHONDA (O.S.) Oh my god, you look like Jim Wayne.

DARRYL What? What are you doing here?

RHONDA I had to come and see you.

DARRYL

Really?

RHONDA Yeah, I was at my spa and suddenly I realized that I couldn't be without you.

She rushes across the room and jumps into his arms.

DARRYL

Really?

RHONDA Totally, I missed my poppy

DARRYL I really don't know what to say.

They embrace.

RIANA (O.S.) Well ain't this some happy horse shit.

DARRYL

Oh Riana!

Riana stands in the doorway eyeing up Rhonda. The girls are standing off in a definite that's my man stance.

DARRYL Rhonda meet Riana, Riana... This is Rhonda... My girlfriend. RHONDA

Fiancee. Pleased to meet cha.

She holds out her hand to be kissed in an effort to seem cultured. Riana grabs it and shakes it heartily.

RIANA

Like wise I'm sure. Well now that there's a happy reunion of lovers lets shove off Darryl. Time's a wasting.

RHONDA Oh you must be the local taxi, are you taking us to the airport?

RIANA The airport?

DARRYL What? No, Rhonda we're going to the rodeo.

RHONDA Baby! I'm tired, can't we leave, this place smells funny. Actually your starting to smell funny too!

your starting to smell funny too! We're leaving.

DARRYL But the rodeo.

RHONDA Screw that hon, we gotta go!

DARRYL What? But I told Riana that I'd go with her.

RHONDA You will not. I'm sure that the town taxi knows where to go. We'll find our own way to the airport...

Riana stares at Rhonda with eyes that could kill. Darryl tries to speak but Rhonda puts her hand up.

RHONDA Thank you. Run along Riana.

Riana looks at Darryl.

DARRYL I'm sorry, I should have told you earlier.

RIANA I can see you have you hands full. Your uncle was right about you.

DARRYL What? What are you talking about.

RIANA I never would have come to this stupid town if I knew your uncle was such a poor judge of character.

DARRYL

What?

Riana leaves in a huff.

DARRYL Why were you so mean to her? You don't even know her.

RHONDA It's not like you do either.

C'mon we're leaving. She drags Darryl towards the door.

RHONDA Do you have anything else to do before you leave this shit hole?

DARRYL Actually yes. I've got to talk to my uncle's lawyer.

EXT/INT. MAIN STREET - LATER

Darryl and Rhonda drive the truck down main street.

RHONDA So, the wedding is in two months and I need to know what three people you plan on inviting. Wow this place really IS a dump.

DARRYL It's not that bad, and what do you mean three people?

RHONDA

Well with all my relatives being flown out and put up at the hotel there's only enough left in your account to pay for three more guests.

DARRYL

What? In which account?

RHONDA

In your checking. God what jumped up your ass?

DARRYL

There was over fifteen thousand dollars in that accoun... Why did you really come out here Rhonda?

RHONDA Would you stop acting so silly, I took a flight in as soon as my money ran out.

The truck screeches to a halt.

DARRYL You came here because your broke?

RHONDA

Well duh. Why else would I come out here? JUST to see you? I love you but not that much.

Darryl gets out of the car and slams the door. Rhonda gets out and Darryl stares at her til she gets back in.

RHONDA

Jeez.

INT. LAW OFFICE - DAY

Darryl knocks on the door and pops his head in. There is a puff of smoke behind the large mahogany desk and big leather chair.

MR. HAGAR (O.S.)

Come in.

Darryl enters and startles himself by the stuffed bear next to the door. Darryl surveys the room.

DARRYL Hello? Mr. Hagar? A puff of smoke billows out from behind the chair.

DARRYL I don't think we've ever met sir and...

MR. HAGAR Why don't you call me Willard.

Darryl is shocked to say the least.

DARRYL

(angry) What the crap? You're no lawyer, I doubt you can even read, if you've been lying to this town about being a lawyer I'll...

WILLARD

As you can see by the Law degree from Harvard University I really am a lawyer.

Darryl immediately goes to inspect the letter and the diploma.

DARRYL

Probably forged.

WILLARD

I'd be happy to know that my ride was appreciated the other day.

DARRYL

What? You were three hours late! I had to wait for you in the burning sun with no one around for miles... I thought I was gonna die! And what's the big idea leaving me to rot out there on the other side of town?

WILLARD

Yeah, the drinking shack. I was wondering why you got out there. I tried to tell you but. You are a very head strong young man.

DARRYL You! I... You almost RAN me OVER!

Darryl sits down in the huge chair opposite Willard.

DARRYL This has been a very strange week.

WILLARD I can imagine. To explain my tardiness. I WAS waiting at the airport... I then realized that you probably didn't even realize that the airport in Cheyenne was two times closer than that tiny dirt road of an airport you used. I'm sorry that I was a little gruff picking you up, I had just driven for five hours.

DARRYL Yeah well... Oh.

WILLARD Why don't we start again.

Willard rises from his seat. Extending his hand which Darryl confusedly grasps.

WILLARD Howdy, I'm Willard Hagar attorney round these parts.

DARRYL But you aren't from around here?

WILLARD I moved out of the city awhile ago.

DARRYL Oh, but, from Harvard?

WILLARD Top of my class!

DARRYL You could have gone anywhere?

WILLARD You wanna know why I ended up here? It's because of your grandfather.

DARRYL You knew my grandfather?

WILLARD Hell he practically raised me with your dad and your uncle. DARRYL So you know why they had a fight?

WILLARD

Money.

DARRYL

What?

WILLARD

Your grandfather left the ranch to Emmett and your father resented it. When Jake decided to move to the city, your uncle couldn't stop him. But he could help him. Every bank that your Dad went to turned him down, thinking he was just one more podunk farmer with dreams of the big city. Your uncle staked half the ranch on your dads business secretly.

DARRYL

THAT's why the Japanese are having such a hard time purchasing it.

WILLARD

Could be.

DARRYL

And in order to buy it they have to find out who to buy it from!

WILLARD

Yup.

DARRYL

And the one that owns it is the one who... Owns the ranch. That's me...

WILLARD

Yup.

DARRYL

But that still doesn't explain why you came back to this town.

WILLARD

I never left! Your grandfather was the guy who paid my way through college. That's a big chunk of change. Four years at Temple University, and another four at Harvard. Do the math. (MORE)

WILLARD (cont'd)

I asked if he wanted me to pay it back, and you know what he said? He said to pay it back by being a damn good lawyer... and to never forget where you came from.

Darryl sits there in silence saying nothing.

WILLARD

I knew that if I went anywhere else in the country or the world I'd be cheating your old man out of a big investment. He, and by association your uncle, doesn't want your family to ever forget that their history is a proud honorable one. And that just because people dig in the dirt doesn't mean that that's where their spirits are.

Darryl remains silent completely flabbergasted.

WILLARD

Now if you wanna sell that ranch that's fine by me. There's plenty of people that'll buy it. Aquifer wells are worth their weight in gold around here. But there's a couple of stipulations that your uncle might not have told you about.

EXT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - LATER

Darryl and Willard leave his office shaking hands, they hug, Darryl hurries over to the car. Rhonda is half sleeping when Darryl flings open the door.

> DARRYL C'mon, it's time to go.

RHONDA

Finally, how long am I supposed to wait out here. That big fat guy over there was staring at me.

DARRYL Oh the sheriff, he's a good guy.

Darryl pulls out and flies off down the road.

EXT. RODEO FAIR GROUNDS - LATER

Several cowboys are thrown around by their beasts.

We see a couple of roping sessions, some cattle take downs and some calf tying.

These guys are professional cowboys who love what they do. The crowd loves it.

ANNOUNCER

Ow, that had to hurt, that's three time champion Bill 'grinny' Nelson thrown from the saddle on that one folks! Wooo-ee did that calf put up a struggle. Next up is the word famous Bronco Busting Competition. Challengers please attend to your ranches and corrals. Sadly this year we will not be seeing the return of Emmett Walker. We expect to see a lot from Reggie Fallstaff. We'll just have to see what the evening holds folks.

EXT. RODEO FAIR GROUNDS - MOMENTS LATER

The circle K ranch gathers around and waits for the competition to start. They are all solemn. Lily hands out some sandwiches, Tex goes over the ropes and readies, JIM, the fellow in the sparkley suit.

TEX

Jim, there's no way you are gonna beat Reggie. Just try not to make our ranch look like a bunch of dang fools.

LILY Tex, where's Darryl.

RIANA He's not coming. He got a little preoccupied by the opposite sex.

RIANA I don't like that woman.

LILY According to Darryl, no one does.

RIANA Why is he with her?

LILY Because he's got no reason NOT to be. Tex grabs one of their other horses and leads it towards a truck.

EXT/INT. HIGHWAY/HIGHWAY - EVENING

The sun is on its way down as Uncle Emmett's truck goes speeding down the back road highway.

RHONDA I just don't see why this is so important.

DARRYL I doubted you would... Look, do you wanna go with me and support me or not?

RHONDA No. Why would I want to go to a stupid rodeo?

DARRYL

Tradition.

Darryl looks at Rhonda. The truck screeches to a halt for a second time. Darryl gets out of the driver's side.

RHONDA What are you doing?

Darryl reaches her door and drags her out. He locks her door.

DARRYL

Here's the last fifty buck's you'll ever get from me. We're done.

He throws a fifty dollar bill at her. He shuts her door and starts walking back towards his side of the car.

RHONDA What the hell is this shit?

Darryl gets in the truck.

RHONDA Darryl, this isn't funny!

In a peal of tires and dust, the truck takes off leaving Rhonda choking and coughing on the side of the road.

RHONDA

You bastard.

The announcer is talking up the first contestant. It is a young guy who tries to stay on the horse. He goes flying. A couple of other guys fly off the same way.

Tex is watching the slaughter.

TEX I think we should withdraw, we'll only end up looking stupid. It's not like the ranch is gonna stay there for ever you know. You think you know someone.

RIANA Tex. I wish I could say that you were wrong.

Another guy goes flying.

TEX I'm gonna give our boy some words of encouragement. I'll be back.

The announcer is talking on. Up walks Jim, the ranch hand. Tex gets mad.

TEX What the hell? Why aren't you up there?

JIM They said that they already had Circle K's Buster in the pen.

Tex looks at the pen and starts running there.

ANNOUNCER And now for a treat. The circle K ranch is proud to present an alternate Buster. He's unknown in these parts.

Tex reaches the pen and sees Darryl sitting on the horse.

TEX You're a damn fool is what you are, why if i-

DARRYL Tex i gotta do it for my uncle!

Tex nods and starts to walks away.

DARRYL

Oh TEX! (whispering) Just make sure there's a paramedic standing by.

Tex claps him on the back and jumps down.

EXT. HOLDING PEN - MOMENTS LATER

Darryl is steadying himself. He's wearing a bright and colorful outfit that looks brighter and more shiny than the one he wore before. There's a RODEO CLOWN getting him ready.

DARRYL Sorry nuts, this is gonna hurt.

RODEO CLOWN.

You ready?

DARRYL As I'll every be.

The buzzer sounds. The Clown smacks the rump of the horse.

Darryl goes flying out of the pen. Holding on for dear life. The crowd cheers the timers goes. It looks like Darryl is about to beat Reggie's time.

Darryl goes flying wide and high. He leaves the horses saddle. He flies up in the air and comes crashing back down onto the horse. Still riding. He beats the timer and flies off into the mud.

Clowns swarm. The crowd goes wild. The announcer is caterwauling like a crazy man.

Lily, Tex, Riana and all the other players rush in to see if Darryl's okay. C crowd forms to see if he's fine.

Riana runs the fastest. She crouches next to him.

RIANA Are you kidding me Darryl what kind of crazy person are you?

Darryl slowly wakes up.

DARRYL

I love you!

RIANA Oh Darryl! The crowd cheers and goes nuts as Darryl gets up to his feet.

ANNOUNCER

That was the darndest thing I have ever seen! He left the saddle and flew through the air only to land back ON the horse! That was crazy. Hang on. I'm getting a note from the judges.

The crowd gets silent.

ANNOUNCER

I have just received word that Darryl Walker, from the Circle K ranch is second place. Upon leaving his saddle the clock stops. The crowd goes into an uproar. There is little doubt who the real winner is here tonight.

The crowd goes crazy again

DARRYL I didn't win?

TEX That's not important Darryl. I am a horny toad! You really pulled through for us Darryl.

Darryl sits up stunned.

He looks at the crowd and the people around him and for the first time in his life feels at home.

FADE OUT:

INT. DARRYL'S OFFICE - MORNING

Darryl come into his office bright eyed and bushy tailed. He pushes a button on his desk.

DARRYL Good morning Rita!

RITA (O.S.) Good morning boss.

DARRYL How's the baby? RITA Cranky and full of poop. I can't wait for you to experience it for yourself.

DARRYL (laughing) I'm sure it'll be grand. Where's Lipschitz?

MR. LIPSCHITZ (O.S.) Right here Darryl, I mean, Mr. Walker.

MR. LIPSCHITZ

Yes sir.

DARRYL

And all those stock options you were hiding in your corporate account are going to be dispersed as Christmas bonuses this year, you'll just have to get hookers on your own dollar. One last thing before I let you go. I just wanted to tell you that your office is going to be the new day care center.

MR. LIPSCHITZ

May you live to be a thousand years old, sir.

DARRYL Thank you Lipschitz.

Darryl is talking to a video-conferenceing phone. Rita's picture is on the main viewer.

Mr. Lipschitz is on a smaller one.

RITA Nicely done sir.

DARRYL When are you gonna come up so I can see your bouncing baby boy?

RITA My husband?

DARRYL

Very funny.

RITA Soon Darryl. There is a noise from behind Darryl. He turns and looks. DARRYL (to Rita) I'll get back to you. A meeting's come up. RITA Bye Darryl. DARRYL Thanks for everything Rita, I wouldn't have been able to do it without you. Riana comes over and sits on Darryl's lap. She is wearing a bathrobe and nothing else. DARRYL Mornin' School Marm. I like having the office here, it's so much more relaxing. RIANA And the commute is a lot better too! But c'mon Darryl, on a Saturday? DARRYL Ok. I'm done. RITA Bye Darryl DARRYL I expect you here soon! RITA I will. RIANA Bye Rita. They both laugh. Darryl's office is now at the ranch. The weather is beautiful and Darryl couldn't be happier. As the ranch is revealed.

Darryl and Riana walk out on the veranda and wave to Tex. Lily is downstairs hanging some wash. RIANA Why won't she let you buy her a washer and dryer.

DARRYL Tradition. It's all about tradition.

FADE OUT:

THE END!