Welcome to Hittyville

by Mike Doyle

Rockethouse Productions 1122 Annie Lane, Mableton, GA 30126 404.201.0380 EXT. - PARKING LOT - DAY

JUDY, the girl from the leasing office, walks with KEVIN to his new apartment. Kevin is in his twenties, better looking than average but doesn't care. He almost never smiles. Judy, thirtysomething, has big hair, lots of jewelry, high heels. She is professionally perky. Overly so.

> JUDY So where were you before here? KEVIN Upstate. JUDY Oh. Where upstate? KEVIN Danville. JUDY Where's Danville? KEVIN Upstate. JUDY But I mean, what's it near? KEVIN Uh, Potterville? JUDY Hmm. Never heard of it. MITCH (O.S.) Hey Judy! JUDY Oh, hey, Mitch! That's Mitch. He's kind of a mad man. He's always at the parties. We have parties once a month at the clubhouse. They're lots of fun. In the summer we have them by the pool. Tenants love

them. Mitch usually brings his guitar. You play guitar? Or anything?

KEVIN I play guitar a little.

JUDY Oh. Maybe you guys could play together sometime. She looks at Kevin for a response. None comes. JUDY (CONT'D) Well I think you'll be very happy here. We usually get a keg for our parties. There's one this Saturday as a matter of fact. Maybe we'll see you there. Again, no response. JUDY (CONT'D) We have cokes, too. If you don't drink. INT. - APARTMENT - DAY - CONTINUOUS Kevin and Judy enter the empty apartment and look around. JUDY So here's your unit. Pretty much identical to the one you liked. This one even has a view to the pool. There are lots of cute girls here. You have a girlfriend? KEVIN No. JUDY Well that might change. You're not gay, are you? Kevin squints at her. JUDY (CONT'D) Guess not. Don't usually ask that kind of thing but, you know, these days... Kevin continues to squint at her. JUDY (CONT'D)

Right. Well, here's your key. If you need anything just let me know. I'm usually in the office and if I'm not there somebody else will be. Either Pam or Judy. The other Judy. (MORE) JUDY (CONT'D) They call us Judy One and Judy Two. I'm Judy One.

I started working here first.

Any questions?

KEVIN Nope. Think I'm all set.

JUDY Okay. We'll I'll let you get all moved in then. And we hope you enjoy living here at the Hartford Arms.

KEVIN

I'm sure I will.

Judy leaves. Kevin opens the blinds and looks out the window. He sighs.

INT. - PIZZA PARLOR - DAY

ROGER shows Kevin around. Roger is middle-aged with a combover and glasses. He wears short sleeved shirts with a tie and polyester pants.

ROGER

...and here of course is the make line. Sauce is here, flour's there, toppings are up there...the standard setup. You can probably figure it out from here.

Any questions?

KEVIN Nope. Looks pretty straightforward.

ROGER

I tell you, your timing couldn't've been better. Last guy disappeared on me and you wouldn't think it but there's only a handful of guys in this town can toss a decent pizza. I been doin' it myself the past week or so and I gotta tell ya', I ain't one of those guys. Ain't that right, Jill?

JILL walks by carrying an empty pizza tray.

JILL What's that?

ROGER I was telling Kevin here that I've been tossing the pizzas this past week. Pretty bad, huh?

JILL They weren't that bad. I seen worse.

ROGER She's just saying that cause I'm her boss. They were terrible.

Well, I'll leave you to it. If you need anything I'll be in my office.

KEVIN

Roger that.

ROGER

What?

KEVIN Roger...Oh, no, I meant, like, you know...Roger. Over and out.

ROGER

Oh. Oh, got it.

Roger goes to his office. Jill sets down the pizza tray and wipes her hands on her apron as she walks back to Kevin. Jill is twentysomething, attractive, dark and streetwise.

JILL So...you're the new guy.

KEVIN I'm the new guy.

 JILL

I'm Jill.

She extends her hand. Kevin shakes it.

KEVIN Nice to meet you, Jill. I'm Kevin.

JILL Nice to meet you, Kevin. You're not from around here, huh? KEVIN No. Where ya' from? KEVIN Upstate. JILL Whereabouts? KEVIN Danville. JILL Never heard of it. It's a small town. JILL

So's this one.

EXT. - BEHIND THE PIZZA PARLOR - NIGHT

Jill and JEREMY are smoking cigarettes and talking. Kevin walks out and lights up a smoke. Jeremy is in his twenties. He's unshaven, unkempt and jittery. He talks in a coarse, whiskey voice.

> JEREMY How's it goin' man? Findin' your way around?

KEVIN Oh, yeah. You work in one pizza joint you worked in them all.

JEREMY I'm Jeremy, by the way.

Jeremy extends a hand nonchalantly. Kevin shakes it.

KEVIN Kevin. Nice to meet you.

JEREMY Nice to meet you. You toss a hell of a pizza.

KEVIN Thanks. Not much to it.

JEREMY

You'd be surprised. Ain't but four or five guys in this town can do it. Guess there's one more now.

KEVIN

Guess so.

JEREMY

Ed, the last guy, just disappeared. Fucker owed me money, too.

KEVIN

Well that sucks.

JEREMY

Ah, fuck 'im. Where you from, Kev? You go by Kev?

KEVIN

Sure. Why not. I'm from upstate. Little town called Danville.

JEREMY

Oh, yeah. Blue Rhino's got a plant up there.

KEVIN (surprised) Yeah. You been there?

JEREMY

Was there once. I used to work for them. For six months anyway until I got caught tokin' up on the job.

JILL

When was this?

JEREMY

Couple years ago.

JILL

I could use a couple tokes right now after that shift.

JEREMY

I'd help you out with that but I'm dry. Shit, whole town's dry. How 'bout it, Kev? Don't suppose you brought any kind buds down with you from Danville... Kevin reaches into his pocket and fishes out a one hitter. He hands it to Jeremy.

KEVIN Help yourself. Just be sure to share with the other children.

JEREMY

My man.

Jeremy packs up the pipe and hits it. He exhales and relaxes.

JEREMY (CONT'D) Kevin, you're gonna do just fine here. Just fine.

INT. - KEVIN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Kevin sleeps in his very dark room. He is awakened by a KNOCK on the door. He slowly opens one eye.

INT. - KEVIN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

More knocking.

KEVIN

Coming.

Kevin opens the door. It's MITCH. Mitch, 45, is a nerd who tries desperately to be cool but just can't pull it off. He wears denim almost exclusively.

MITCH Hey. You must be Kevin.

KEVIN

That's me.

MITCH Mitch Mitchell, I'm over in 1640. Nice to meet you.

He extends his hand. Kevin shakes it.

KEVIN Yeah, nice to meet you.

MITCH Didn't wake you up, did I?

KEVIN Uh, yeah, actually. MITCH Out late partying, huh? I can dig it.

KEVIN Na. Working actually.

MITCH Working? What kind of work you do? Bartender?

KEVIN I toss pizzas.

MITCH Oh, yeah? Where at?

KEVIN Pizza Bella? Right around the corner?

MITCH Oh, yeah. Go there all the time. Hey, maybe you could hook me up with some free za sometime.

KEVIN

No.

MITCH Naw, I'm just messin'.

So Judy in the leasing office tells me you play guitar.

KEVIN

Little bit.

MITCH

Awesome. Maybe we could jam sometime. What kind of music you like to play?

KEVIN Just, you know, whatever.

MITCH Solid. Solid. You in a band?

KEVIN

No.

MITCH

Right on. Hey, we got a party up at the clubhouse tomorrow night. You should come by. Bring your guitar.

KEVIN Uh, actually I gotta work tomorrow night.

MITCH Oh. Bummer. Some other time, then.

KEVIN Yeah. Some other time.

MITCH Alright, well, I'm over in 1640. Apartment 309. Just come on over anytime you wanna jam.

KEVIN

Kay.

They stand there, looking at each other.

MITCH Well, good to meet you. See you around.

KEVIN

Yeah.

They shake hands and Mitch walks off. Kevin closes the door, shakes his head and slumps off to bed.

EXT. - BEHIND THE PIZZA PARLOR - DAY

Jill and RACHEL are smoking cigarettes and talking. Rachel is twentysomething but acts younger. She's attractive in a bohemian way. A little slow on the uptake.

> RACHEL So is he cute?

JILL Yeah. Cute guy. Kinda rough around the edges but definitely cute.

RACHEL Kinda like Jeremy? JILL Ew, no. Jeremy's a dirtbag. I mean, I like him, don't get me wrong. You think Jeremy's cute?

RACHEL Not really. Well, kinda. I just meant rough around the edges. You know, like Jeremy.

JILL No. Not that rough. Better body, too. Taller.

RACHEL Ooh. Can't wait to meet him.

Jill looks at her watch.

JILL Well he should be here any minute.

Kevin walks up from around the corner. He looks at his watch.

KEVIN Looks like I got time for a smoke.

He fishes his cigarettes out and lights one up.

KEVIN (CONT'D) Morning, ladies.

JILL AND RACHEL

Morning.

JILL Kevin, this is my roommate and our fellow co-worker, Rachel.

Rachel extends her hand.

RACHEL

Hi.

KEVIN Hi. I'm Kevin. Nice to meet you.

RACHEL Nice to meet you, too. So I hear you got my roommate stoned out of her mind last night. What??? That doesn't sound like something *I* would do. Surely there's been some kind of mistake...

RACHEL

Yeah, right. So I guess you like to party, huh?

KEVIN

Not me. I'm a church boy. Sing in a choir and everything.

RACHEL

Please. I just hope you saved some for me.

KEVIN

Madam, I have no idea what you're talking about. I'm just here to make some pizzas. Just want to give an honest day's work for an honest day's pay.

JILL Where's your car?

KEVIN Don't have one.

JILL You walked here?

KEVIN I'm only a couple blocks away. No big deal.

JILL How'd you get down here?

KEVIN Rented a truck. Dropped it off at the U-Haul place up the road.

JILL

Ahh...

EXT. - BEHIND THE PIZZA PARLOR - NIGHT

Kevin stands in the doorway looking outside at the rain. Jeremy walks up behind him.

JEREMY Shit, man. It's really comin' down.

KEVIN

Үер.

JEREMY You got a ride home?

KEVIN

No.

JEREMY You want a ride home?

KEVIN Yeah. You mind?

JEREMY Not if you don't mind breakin' out the one hitter.

KEVIN Mi marijuana es su marijuana, amigo.

JEREMY Grassy ass. Hey, you got any plans? You wanna go grab a couple beers?

KEVIN

Sure.

INT. - JEREMY'S CAR - NIGHT

Kevin and Jeremy smoke up and crank some Led Zeppelin on the way to the bar.

INT. - BAR - NIGHT

Kevin stands in front of the juke box. TINA sidles up next to him. She is the prom queen, captain of the cheerleading squad, everybody's favorite. She's pretty drunk.

> TINA Whatcha gonna play?

KEVIN I don't know. Any suggestions?

TINA No Woman No Cry. KEVIN Yeah, I already picked that one.

TINA Good choice. What else ya got?

KEVIN I got that one, Let's Get It On and Let's Stay Together.

Tina slaps his arm and leaves her hand there.

TINA Shut up. You just named three of my all-time favorite songs of all time.

KEVIN Huh. You have good taste in music.

TINA Why thank you. I would say that we have good taste in music.

KEVIN Yeah, that's probably...

RICKY What the fuck is going on here?

Kevin and Tina turn around and look at RICKY, a short, spoiled, abrasive prick.

RICKY (CONT'D) I go to the shitter for five minutes and already you're hitting on dudes?

TINA I wasn't hitting on him, we were...

RICKY

Oh please. You're practically sucking his dick. Why don't you just fuck him in front of everyone here?

KEVIN Whoa, whoa. Lighten up, Francis.

RICKY Who the FUCK are you? Ricky gives Kevin a two handed chest shove. Kevin counters with a quick right jab that catches Ricky squarely on the chin. Ricky drops like a sack of concrete potatoes.

KEVIN I'm the guy who just knocked your ass out.

Everyone in the bar stops talking and moving and looks on at the scene.

Jeremy, up at the bar, quickly digs out some bills and slaps them on the bar. He hurries over to Kevin.

JEREMY Let's get the fuck out of here.

KEVIN I'm cool. I'm cool.

JEREMY No, we're leaving. Now.

Kevin looks down at Tina, whose trying to revive Ricky.

TINA

You better go.

KEVIN I'm sorry. You shouldn't let him talk to you like that.

JEREMY Dude. Going. Now.

INT. - JEREMY'S CAR - NIGHT

KEVIN

...I was just picking out some songs and she came over and we just started talking about music. Then that little douche bag came up and started yelling at us. Then he shoved me and I hit him.

JEREMY

Yeah, well, that little douche bag's dad owns half of this whole town. Plus he's the mayor. Plus he's corrupt as shit. Plus he's a mean-ass son of a bitch. And his son, that dude you just leveled? (MORE) JEREMY (CONT'D) He's even worse. I'm afraid you fucked with the wrong dude, dude.

KEVIN Fuck him. What's he going to do?

JEREMY I don't know. But if I were you I'd be watchin' my ass.

INT. - PIZZA PARLOR - DAY

Kevin makes a pizza. Rachel comes over and puts up an order.

RACHEL Need a large pepperoni.

KEVIN

Kay.

Rachel leans against the counter.

RACHEL So...I heard you beat up Ricky Cory last night.

KEVIN Let's keep that on the down low, kay?

RACHEL Why? You're a hero.

KEVIN I wouldn't go that far.

RACHEL You didn't grow up here. That little prick has pissed off everybody in this town at least once. Most of us a lot more than that. It's about time he got what he deserves. I just wish I coulda been there.

Kevin tosses pizza dough from fist to fist.

RACHEL (CONT'D) You closing tonight?

KEVIN Yeah. You?

RACHEL

Yeah.

INT. - MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

The MAYOR is at his desk, talking on the phone. Two uniformed police officers sit in chairs opposite him. The MAYOR, 58, is a large man in an expensive suit with a permanent scowl. The cops look like cops -- sunglasses, hats, mustaches.

MAYOR

... Turns out he left his credit card at the bar so we got his name, his address, where he works... I'm gonna send a couple of the boys over to bring him in.

RICKY (O.S.) (through phone) No, Dad.

MAYOR

Whaddya mean no? Assault and battery is a crime, son. Not sure if you're aware of that. There's laws in this town...

RICKY

Just let me handle this. I can take care of myself. I don't need your help.

MAYOR

Hey, it's not about help. It's about obeying the law, Ricky. You can't just go around suckerpunching people. This boy's gonna get punished for his deed. That's the way the system works.

RICKY

Dad, please. Let me take care of this. I got skin in this now. It's personal. Let me take care of it.

MAYOR

What're you gonna do?

RICKY

I'm gonna even the score, that's what I'm gonna do.

MAYOR

How?

RICKY

Don't worry about it. I know what I'm doing. You always told me to stand up for myself. That's what I'm gonna do.

MAYOR

(sighing) Okay, boy. Okay. Just be careful. I may be the Mayor but that doesn't mean you can get away with just anything. Just be careful.

RICKY

I will.

MAYOR Okay. See ya.

RICKY

Bye.

The Mayor hangs up the phone.

MAYOR

It's alright. Apparently Ricky is going to take care of this himself. Whatever that means.

COP #1 Guess the apple doesn't fall too far, eh, chief?

MAYOR

I guess not.

EXT. - BEHIND THE PIZZA PARLOR - DAY

Kevin and Jill are smoking and talking.

JILL You were flirting.

KEVIN I don't think so. We just have similar taste in music.

JILL

Flirting.

KEVIN Not flirting.

JILL

If your account of it is actually what happened then that, my friend, is flirting. She's a hottie, you can admit it.

KEVIN I promise I wasn't flirting. I was just talking to her.

JILL

Uh huh.

We used to be best friends. Back in, like, sixth grade. Then we went on to middle school. Then high school. Then she started cheerleading, I started hanging out with the stoners...

KEVIN You still talk to her at all?

Jill shakes her head.

JILL

No. Especially not since she started dating Ricky. Ewww. God, if I had a nickel for every sleazy comment that little prick ever made...Man I wish I coulda seen it. I'd a paid fifty bucks to see it.

KEVIN

Really wasn't that big a deal. I wish it had never happened.

JILL

Oh but I'm so glad it did. And I can assure you I'm not alone.

Kevin looks at his watch and flicks away his cigarette.

KEVIN

Alright.

He walks back into the pizza parlor.

EXT. - STREET - NIGHT

Kevin is walking home from work. He wears a leather jacket and has his hands in his pockets. It's cold. He turns down an alley. At the end of the alley a dark figure emerges from the shadows. It's Ricky. He points a gun at Kevin.

> RICKY How's it goin', asshole?

Kevin freezes in his tracks.

RICKY (CONT'D) Yeah. Not so tough now, are you?

KEVIN You're pretty tough behind that gun.

RICKY I'd rather be on this end than the end you're on.

Kevin just looks at him.

RICKY (CONT'D) So tell me this: How does it feel to know that you only have about five minutes left in this world?

Kevin continues to look at him, saying nothing.

RICKY (CONT'D)

Well?

KEVIN I don't think you have the balls to kill me.

RICKY Wrong, bitch.

Ricky fires the gun through a silencer. The bullet hits Kevin in his left shoulder. Kevin drops to one knee. Ricky runs off.

> KEVIN Ow, fuck! Oh, the little fucker shot me. Oh, Jesus. Oh, Jesus. Ah, fuck!

He starts to walk toward home, cussing the whole time.

Mitch parks his car and gets out as Kevin walks quickly toward him.

KEVIN

Mitch! Mitch!

MITCH

Oh, hey, dude. How's it going? You wanna jam a little bit? I know it's late but I'm down if...

KEVIN No. Can't. You have a cell phone on you?

MITCH Uh, yeah. What's up?

KEVIN Can you call 911? I'm hurt.

MITCH Sure. Sure, buddy. What happened?

KEVIN I've been shot.

MITCH Are you serious?

KEVIN

Yeah. I'm losin' a lot of blood. Whoa. I gotta sit down.

Mitch notices the blood running down Kevin's white pants and faints.

KEVIN (CONT'D) Oh, for Christ's sake...

Kevin picks up Mitch's phone and calls 911.

INT. - HOSPITAL SEATING AREA - DAY

The NURSE walks up to the DETECTIVE. The nurse is old and ugly. The detective is fat and disheveled. They're both losers.

NURSE The patient is awake now. NURSE

401B.

DETECTIVE

Thank you.

INT. - HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Kevin is lying in bed with his left arm in a sling. The detective KNOCKS on the door.

KEVIN

Come in.

The detective enters.

DETECTIVE Are you Kevin Halloran?

KEVIN

Yeah.

DETECTIVE

Kevin, I'm Detective Marshall with the Hittyville Police Department. I'm here to ask you some questions if you're feeling up for it.

KEVIN

Uh. Yeah. Sure.

DETECTIVE How's the wound?

KEVIN

Hurts.

Was that one of the questions?

DETECTIVE (chuckling) No. That was just me being concerned. I have a son your age. Hate to see this kind of thing happen.

He breaks out a small notepad and pen.

DETECTIVE (CONT'D)

So can you tell me what happened?

KEVIN

Well, I was coming home from work and...

DETECTIVE

What time was it?

KEVIN

Uh...I guess I left work at about 12:30 or so?

DETECTIVE

At night?

KEVIN

Yeah. Last night. Well, early this morning technically but... Anyway, I was coming home, and I usually cut through this alleyway next to the Quickie Lube on Main Street to save a little time... So I was walking through the alley and uh...uh...this guy...this guy just came out of nowhere and uh...uh...he had a gun and...uh...just kind of pointed it at me and said, 'Give me your money'...and I said, 'I don't have any cash but...

DETECTIVE Was that true?

KEVIN

Was what true?

DETECTIVE That you didn't have any cash?

KEVIN

Yeah, actually it was. I don't usually have cash. What with everywhere having the little swipe machines...

DETECTIVE

Gotcha.

KEVIN Yeah, so, I said I didn't have any cash and I went to get my credit cards but he just popped me.

DETECTIVE He shot you when you were reaching for your credit cards?

KEVIN

Yeah, I just reached into my pocket to get my cards and...bam! Next thing I know I got this searing pain in my shoulder.

The detective takes all this down on his notepad.

DETECTIVE

Did you happen to get a good look at him? What he was wearing? How tall he was? Was he black, white? That sort of thing.

KEVIN

Uh, no. Not really. It was really dark at the time and, uh, he was uh, wearing a mask so...

DETECTIVE What kind of a mask?

KEVIN Just a black ski mask.

DETECTIVE The ski mask was black?

KEVIN Well it looked black at the time.

DETECTIVE

How tall was he? It was a male, right?

KEVIN

Yeah. Definitely male. I guess he was about my height. He was a good ten yards away from me so I couldn't really tell.

DETECTIVE Could you tell if he was white or black? KEVIN

Uh, if I had to guess I would say he was white. Just going by the way he talked.

The detective continues to write in his notepad for a while.

DETECTIVE Anything else?

KEVIN No. That's it.

DETECTIVE

Do you know if anyone would have a reason for doing this to you? Any past encounters that might have led to this?

KEVIN Not sure. I suppose.

DETECTIVE You mentioned your credit cards. Guess you were missing one, huh?

KEVIN

Sir?

The detective reaches into his trenchcoat pocket and pulls out a credit card. He tosses it onto Kevin's chest.

DETECTIVE

You started a tab about a week ago at Rueben's Bar & Grill. But you never closed it out. Mind tellin' me why?

KEVIN Pretty sure you already know why.

DETECTIVE I'd like to hear your side of it.

KEVIN

Well, I was standing at the juke box picking out songs. Then this girl came up and asked me what I was gonna play. We started talking a bit and the next thing I know her boyfriend is yelling at her, saying rude things, acting very hostile. I told him to calm down, he shoved me, I hit him.

DETECTIVE You assaulted him.

KEVIN

I was defending myself. He shoved me.

DETECTIVE

From the accounts we heard you defended yourself pretty well. People said you dropped him cold.

Kevin shrugs.

DETECTIVE (CONT'D)

So this guy who shot you last night...you don't think it was the guy you clocked at Rueben's?

KEVIN

Doubt it. The guy at Rueben's was a good bit shorter than the guy who shot me.

DETECTIVE

You know, they say that attackers always look bigger to their victims. They say that the victim has a distorted perception of their attackers due to the circumstances. You don't suppose that might be the case here?

KEVIN

Could be, I guess. Doubt it though. Like I said, the guy who shot me looked to be about my height.

DETECTIVE

And how tall are you?

KEVIN

I'm about six two, six three.

DETECTIVE

And how tall would you guess the guy at Rueben's was?

KEVIN

Bout five six, five seven.

DETECTIVE

And you don't think the two incidents were connected in any way? This wasn't somebody getting you back?

KEVIN

Like I said, I'm not sure. Don't think it was the same guy though.

DETECTIVE

And you don't think the two incidents are related in any way?

KEVIN

I have no idea. I suppose it's a possibility.

The detective continues scribbling in his notepad.

DETECTIVE

Okay, well, I guess that's all the information I need. Unless there's something else?

KEVIN No. No I think that's it.

DETECTIVE

Okay, well, thank you for your cooperation. We'll be in touch if we hear of anything. And if you think of anything else, just give me a call.

The detective hands Kevin a business card.

DETECTIVE (CONT'D) Rest up, now. Have a good day.

KEVIN

You too.

The detective leaves. Kevin rubs the business card and the credit card together as he thinks. He sets them down, sighs, and puts his head down on his pillow.

INT. - ROGER'S OFFICE - DAY

Roger works at his computer. His phone RINGS.

ROGER

Hello?

KEVIN (O.S.) (through phone)

Roger?

ROGER

Yeah.

KEVIN Hey, it's Kevin.

ROGER Hey. How's it goin'?

KEVIN

Well. Not so good, actually. I got mugged last night on the way home from work.

ROGER Oh dear God. Where was this?

KEVIN

This little alley next to the Quickie Lube. I usually cut through there to get to my apartment. Saves a few minutes. Anyway I was walking through there and a guy came out of nowhere with a gun. Told me to give him my money. I told him I didn't have any cash so he shot me.

ROGER

Oh my God!

KEVIN

Yeah. Nice guy, huh? Luckily it wasn't fatal. Obviously. Just went through my shoulder. Hurts like a son of a bitch but I'll be okay.

ROGER

Jesus. That's the weirdest thing I've ever heard. That kind of thing doesn't usually happen around here.

KEVIN Yeah. Guess I'm just lucky. At any rate I won't be in today. Guess I'll be out for a while...

ROGER Yeah, yeah. Geez. Well don't worry about that. (MORE)

ROGER (CONT'D)

I'm sure Tommy will be able to cover some shifts and...well, I guess I'll have to make a few more pies...God, that's the weirdest thing I've ever heard. Are you okay? I mean, are you fixed okay for money? Do you need an advance or anything? Can't do much for you but I can help you out a little. Just so's you can eat while your recovering...

KEVIN

Oh no, no. I'll be fine. Thanks, though. And, you know, maybe it's the morphine talking...or maybe it's the fact that I nearly died last night but...well, I don't usually get sentimental but I do want to thank you for hiring me. God only knows what kind of medical bills I'd be facing if I didn't have any health care.

ROGER

Well, I'm sorry it's not better coverage. I know the co-pays are pretty high. It's not the best but I suppose it's something.

KEVIN

It's better than what I had before, which was nothing, so thanks.

ROGER

Yeah. No worries. Well, listen, you rest up. Get yourself all better. Your job will be here for you when you're ready to get back in the saddle.

KEVIN

Thanks, Roger. I appreciate it. And, hey, I'm sure you'll want to tell the girls so try and break it to them gently. You know how chicks are.

ROGER Yeah, I know how chicks are. You over at General?

KEVIN

Yeah. Room 401B.

ROGER Alright. Hey, take it easy, kid. We'll see you around.

KEVIN Yeah, see you around.

Roger hangs up and shakes his head.

ROGER

Mmmm.

Mmmm, mmmm, mmmm.

He gets up and opens the door to his office.

ROGER (CONT'D) Hey Jill? Rachel? Could you come in here for a second?

INT. - MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

The Mayor is talking with the detective who interrogated Kevin.

MAYOR Ski mask, huh?

DETECTIVE

Yes, sir.

MAYOR Huh. Said he was about six two, six three?

DETECTIVE

Yes, sir.

MAYOR Hmmm. Could be anybody.

The detective shrugs.

MAYOR (CONT'D) Interesting.

Kevin plays solitaire with his good hand. There's a KNOCK on the door. Kevin looks over at his roommate, an old man who has fallen asleep.

KEVIN

Come in.

Jeremy enters gingerly.

JEREMY

Dude?

He rounds the corner and sees Kevin.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Dude.

KEVIN Hey, man. How's it goin'?

JEREMY Dude, you okay? What happened?

KEVIN

Got shot.

JEREMY Bet I know who. Told you to watch your ass.

KEVIN Wasn't really much I could do.

JEREMY Guess not. Maybe you should start packin'.

KEVIN Maybe so. You out on deliveries?

JEREMY Yeah. Had that crazy Asian couple around the corner so thought I'd pop in.

KEVIN

Preciate it.

JEREMY

You need anything? Want me to swing by your place and get you anything? KEVIN Uh, yeah. Some clothes to go home in would be good.

JEREMY No problem. Anything else?

KEVIN

Nah. They'll probably send me home tomorrow. Our health care's not so great.

JEREMY No complications from the surgery or anything?

KEVIN Nope. Healing like a trooper. So they tell me.

JEREMY Any of your nurses hot?

KEVIN No. They're hideous.

JEREMY So it's not like that movie I saw, Naughty Nurses Number Nine?

KEVIN

No.

JEREMY Well that sucks. Although I gotta tell you, you're gonna get so laid because of this.

KEVIN Why do you say that?

JEREMY

Oh, come on.

(girl's voice)

Ooh, poor Kevie! You got shot? Ooh, let me make it better.

(regular voice)

That bullet wound is gonna be a pussy magnet, you'll see.

KEVIN Doubt it very much.

JEREMY

You'll see.

Jeremy looks at his watch.

JEREMY (CONT'D) Alright man, I gotta book. Lemme have your keys.

Kevin points to his jacket.

KEVIN Over there in my jacket.

JEREMY Hey is your....

He makes the smokie, smokie motion.

KEVIN Inside pocket. Help yourself.

JEREMY Can you sneak out for a...

KEVIN

No. Dude, I'm so whacked out on morphine right now...

JEREMY

Oh yeah?

KEVIN

Yeah, they gave me this little button so anytime I want I can just put myself on a drip.

JEREMY

Sweet. Aren't they afraid you'll o.d.?

KEVIN

I think it's regulated so you can't. Especially for druggies like me.

JEREMY Alright well...what apartment you in? KEVIN It's building 1648, apartment 209.

JEREMY You don't have a rottweiler or anything like that, do you?

KEVIN

No.

JEREMY Alright. I'ma head out. Take it easy, bro.

KEVIN

Yeah, you too.

JEREMY

I'll be back after I get off my shift. The girls wanted to see you too so we might all come around eightish.

KEVIN

I think visiting hours are over at eight.

JEREMY

Seriously?

KEVIN

Yeah. They're nazis about it too. That dude's grandkids tried to see him last night at eight ten and they wouldn't let them up.

JEREMY

Fuck.

KEVIN

Yeah.

JEREMY Well, shit. Guess we'll be by tomorrow. You won't be going home today, will you?

KEVIN

Don't think so.

JEREMY

Alright. Well, call the shop if you need anything and I'll swing it by.

KEVIN Alright, thanks. JEREMY Peace. KEVIN Yeah. See you around. Jeremy leaves. INT. - MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY The mayor sits at his desk opposite the cops who were in his office earlier. MAYOR So according to the victim it happened last night in an alleyway next to the Quickie Lube on Main Street. Go on by and check it out. COP #1 You got it, chief. The cops get up to leave. MAYOR Oh and guys? They stop before the door. COP #1 Yeah, chief? MAYOR Don't look too hard, huh? COP #1 I'm sure we won't find shit. They laugh and leave. EXT. - BEHIND THE PIZZA PARLOR - DAY Jill and Rachel smoke cigarettes and talk. RACHEL Is it eight yet? Jill looks at her watch.

34.

JILL Three twenty.

RACHEL Ugh. This day is taking forever. Who's got the late shift?

JILL Jesse and Tommy.

RACHEL Just Jesse and Tommy?

JILL Yeah. Been so dead at night lately.

RACHEL

True.

JILL That's so fucked up about Kevin.

RACHEL

I bet any amount of money that Ricky had something to do with it. Little prick. I can't fuckin' believe it. Who goes around shooting people? That's insame.

JILL

Doesn't matter who did it, I just feel bad for the guy. Wonder if his parents have been notified. Have you ever heard him mention anything about his family?

RACHEL

Never.

JILL No. Me neither. Poor guy.

EXT. - ALLEYWAY - DAY

Cop #1 and Cop #2 stand on the street looking up the alley. They're eating donuts and drinking coffee.

> COP #1 You see anything?

COP #2 Unh uh. You?
COP #1

Unh uh.

COP #2 Oh well. This investigation's done.

INT. - HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

The nurse finishes taking Kevin's vitals and leaves. Kevin looks up at the ceiling. Tears begin streaming down the sides of his face.

INT. - JEREMY'S CAR - NIGHT

Jeremy and Rachel park in front of Kevin's apartment.

RACHEL Maybe we should just do this in the morning.

JEREMY Take two seconds. Come on.

INT. - KEVIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jeremy and Rachel enter. Clothes, books, pizza boxes, empty beer cans, etc. are strewn about. Rachel sits on the bed as Jeremy begins opening dresser drawers and pulling out clothes.

RACHEL

Oh my God.

JEREMY

What?

RACHEL These sheets. Oh my God, they're soooo soft.

JEREMY You see a suitcase anywhere? Or a backpack or something?

RACHEL

Look in the closet. Wow. They must be like 30,000 count. This is the softest thing I've ever felt in my life. JEREMY

Good call.

Jeremy starts stuffing clothes in the backpack when he notices a bankbook on top of the dresser. He opens it up and looks at it.

JEREMY (CONT'D) Holy shit!

RACHEL

What?

JEREMY He's got a hundred and fifteen thousand dollars in his savings account.

RACHEL

Seriously?

JEREMY Yeah, check it out.

RACHEL Well that explains how he can afford these sheets. Mmmmm. Bet they feel great when you're naked.

JEREMY

Let's find out.

Jeremy starts to take off his clothes. Rachel giggles.

INT. - KEVIN'S BEDROOM - DAY

A cell phone RINGS. The room is very dark. From under the comforter, Rachel reaches down and pulls her cell phone out of her jeans pocket.

RACHEL

Hello?

JILL (0.S.) (through phone) Where the hell are you?

RACHEL Who's this?

JILL It's Jill! Where the hell are you? We're supposed to go see Kevin before work. RACHEL What time is it? JILL Ten. RACHEL Oh, shit. JILL Are you at Jeremy's? RACHEL No. No. Of course not. JEREMY Who is it? JILLOooooh. You're at Jeremy's. You little slut. RACHEL I'm not at Jeremy's. JEREMY Who is it? RACHEL Shut up. JILL Rach, I can hear him. You're a little slut. I'm totally telling everyone. RACHEL Would you calm down. I'm not at Jeremy's. I'll explain later. Christ, you're worse than my mother. JILL Well are you coming back here?

RACHEL Yes. I'll be there in ten minutes. Christ. Rachel hangs up.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Get up.

JEREMY

Who was that?

RACHEL Jill. We're late. Get up.

JEREMY What time is it?

RACHEL

Ten.

JEREMY Oh, fuck.

INT. - HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Kevin is playing solitaire again. A KNOCK on the door. It's DR. PECKER, the hospital shrink. Dr. Pecker, 49, has frizzy, uncombed hair, a big nose, big bushy mustache and glasses. He has the mannerisms and voice of a man who sings songs to children for a living.

DR. PECKER Knock, knock. Hello? Anyone home?

Kevin looks over to find his old roommate still asleep.

KEVIN Yeah. Come on in.

Dr. Pecker enters.

DR. PECKER Hi! You must be Kevin.

KEVIN

That's me.

DR. PECKER Hi, Kevin. My name is Dr. Pecker. Do you have a minute?

KEVIN

Sure.

DR. PECKER

So you're probably thinking, 'What's this guy doing here? Dr. Rosenthal is my doctor'. Well, you're right, Dr. Rosenthal is still your doctor. I'm actually a different kind of doctor. A psychiatrist, actually, and just for good measure I like to talk to people who...well, people who have had experiences like yours.

KEVIN

Gotcha.

DR. PECKER

So, if it's okay with you, I'd just like to talk to you for a little bit. Is that okay?

KEVIN

Sure.

No.

DR. PECKER

So, Kevin, how are you feeling about things? I'm sure you didn't expect anything like this to happen.

KEVIN

Uh, no. No. Can't say I saw this coming. I'm okay, though. Stuff happens. You know.

DR. PECKER

Right. Right. My wife actually has a coffee mug that says that. Only it doesn't say 'stuff' it says something else. She can be coarse. But are you having any emotional...uh...

I guess, you know, some of my patients who have been through what you've been through...they have a hard time. 'Why me?' is a question I hear people frequently ask. Are you having any feelings like that?

KEVIN

DR. PECKER

Well good. Good. Listen. Kevin. It's important to know, first and foremost, that what happened to you wasn't your fault. Okay? It wasn't your fault.

KEVIN

Okay.

DR. PECKER

The second thing you need to know is that, hey, this was probably just a one-time thing. Okay? And just because this happened once, that doesn't mean it will ever happen again. Okay? In fact, it's very likely that it won't happen again. So there's no need to hide yourself away from the world.

KEVIN

Okay.

DR. PECKER Okay. You seem to be taking this well. Better than most.

KEVIN

Thanks.

DR. PECKER Yeah. Okay, well, is there anything you'd like to talk about?

KEVIN

Nope.

DR. PECKER

Okay. Okay. Well, here, I want you to take my card and, if you start...you know...having feelings or emotions that you're not quite sure how to deal with...just give me a call, okay?

KEVIN

You got it, Doc.

DR. PECKER

Okay. Well, rest up. Dr. Rosenthal says you're healing well so you should be out of here soon. KEVIN That's what I'm hoping for.

DR. PECKER I'm sure. I'm sure. Always good to sleep in your own bed. Are you currently employed?

KEVIN

Yes, sir.

DR. PECKER What's your line?

KEVIN

I make pizzas.

DR. PECKER Oh! I love a good pizza. Where do you work?

KEVIN Pizza Bella?

DR. PECKER

Oh, yeah. Know it well. Get take out all the time. I think your delivery guy might be smoking some wacky tabacky if you know what I mean but the pizza's great. Best in town.

KEVIN

Glad you like it.

DR. PECKER

So, geez, guess you probably won't be able to make pizzas, huh?

KEVIN

No. Most people don't know this but pizza making is all in the shoulders.

DR. PECKER

Really?

KEVIN

No. But you still can't make them with one hand. I'll be out of work for a little while.

DR. PECKER Oh dear. Well, do you have any hobbies? Anything you can do with one hand?

Kevin looks at him with his eyebrows raised.

DR. PECKER (CONT'D) Okay, let me rephrase that. Do you have any means for passing the time while your recovering?

Kevin looks at him with the same expression.

DR. PECKER (CONT'D) Yeah. Okay, here's my concern. And this is true no matter why you've had surgery: The downtime can get you. Okay? People who are used to working can very often have problems when they're not able to work. It's very important that you find a way to fill up your days while you're recovering. Very important. I see you're playing solitaire. That's a good start. I would also recommend things like crossword puzzles, jigsaw puzzles, movies.

I had one patient who used their recovery period to watch the American Film Institute's top one hundred movies. I thought that was a great idea.

KEVIN

That is a good idea. Maybe I'll do that.

DR. PECKER

There you go. But just be sure to get out every once in a while, too. Okay? Maybe go *out* to see a movie. Maybe go bowling. I'm assuming you're right handed, most people are.

KEVIN

I am.

DR. PECKER Yeah, so, make sure you go out. See friends. Do you have a significant other?

KEVIN

No, sir.

DR. PECKER I'm sure you have friends, though?

KEVIN

Yeah. Got a few friends.

DR. PECKER

Well make it a point to go out with them. You know, dinner, coffee, maybe go to a bar for a few drinks, if you drink...that sort of thing. You know what I'm saying, right?

KEVIN

I do. And it's good advice. I'll be sure to take it to heart.

DR. PECKER Well good. Good. I'm sure you'll do just fine. And like I said, if you start feeling bad, just give me a call.

KEVIN Okay. Thanks, Doc.

DR. PECKER

You bet.

Dr. Pecker pats Kevin on his good shoulder.

DR. PECKER (CONT'D) Take it easy, kid. Rest up. We'll have you out of here in no time.

INT. - JEREMY'S CAR - DAY

RACHEL Oh my God what if he knows? What if he can tell?

JEREMY He won't be able to tell. It's fine.

RACHEL

We should wash the sheets.

JEREMY

If you wash the sheets he'll be able to tell. Otherwise he won't suspect a thing. Besides, it's not like we did anything that...you know...we didn't leave any...evidence or anything.

Rachel just looks at him.

JEREMY (CONT'D) I'm just saying...it was a fairly...clean operation.

The way we did it.

Clean.

RACHEL Yeah, you're right. Ooh, drop me off here.

JEREMY What for? You going bowling?

RACHEL

No, I just don't want Jill to see you drop me off.

JEREMY

Why? Are you embarrassed?

RACHEL What? No, I just don't want her to know...

JEREMY

You're embarrassed. You're ashamed to be seen with me.

RACHEL

No. No, it's not that. I'm glad we did it. It's just...well, do you want everyone to know? Cause if Jill knows then everyone's gonna know.

JEREMY

I don't care.

RACHEL

Really?

JEREMY

Not a bit. Hell, you're the hottest girl I've ever been with. I want everyone to know.

RACHEL Awww, that's so sweet.

Seriously, though, drop me off here. She already thinks we slept together and I hate it when she's right.

JEREMY Even when she's right?

RACHEL Especially when she's right. Here, just pull over.

Jeremy pulls over.

JEREMY Fine. Listen, though. I had a blast last night. You're awesome.

RACHEL Yeah, it was fun. I'll see you at the hospital, or Bella's...one of the two.

JEREMY Yeah, see you in a bit.

They kiss. Rachel gets out. She comes back in for another quick kiss.

RACHEL

Yum.

INT. - HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Kevin is playing solitaire again. There's a KNOCK on the door. Kevin looks over to see his old roommate sleeping.

KEVIN

Come in.

Jeremy enters.

JEREMY

S'up, brah.

KEVIN

Hey.

JEREMY Got some clothes for you.

Jeremy holds up a backpack.

JEREMY (CONT'D) I got your hot pink thong. Figured that was probably your favorite pair.

KEVIN It is. Thanks.

JEREMY

Yeah. How you feelin'? How's the wing?

KEVIN Little better today.

JEREMY Good man. So when they gonna let you out of this joint? Six goes on the seven.

KEVIN Hopefully today.

JEREMY You need a ride? Dude, six goes on the seven.

KEVIN Nah, I'll just take a cab.

JEREMY Do you not see that red six next to that black seven?

KEVIN Oh, yeah. Thanks.

JEREMY I can give you a ride. You don't have to call a cab. KEVIN

It's cool. Not too far. Be a couple bucks.

JEREMY Just call me when they're about to let you out.

KEVIN Don't want to put you out.

JEREMY No trouble at all. I'm sure Roger won't mind. Just call me. Let me do

this for you.

KEVIN Yeah, alright. Thanks.

JEREMY

You know it's okay to ask for help. You need a ride...or...you need somebody to help you smoke all that kind bud you got...or...you bring a chick home and she's all like, 'hey, do you have a friend? I'm feeling really horny', you know, anything like that. Just let me know.

Hey. I'm there for you, bro.

KEVIN Preciate it.

INT. - JILL'S CAR - DAY

Rachel and Jill are driving to work.

RACHEL

What are you doing? You missed the turn.

JILL We don't have time.

RACHEL We got twenty minutes.

JILL Yeah. That's not enough time. RACHEL We'll just go for a second.

Jill glares at her.

RACHEL (CONT'D) We have time. We'll just go for a quick visit.

JILL

You know, Rach. You knew I wanted to see him. You knew that. And still you stayed out all night, which, I'm not judging, Lord knows I've done it on more than one occasion. But you knew I wanted to see him before we went in to work.

RACHEL

So turn around. We got twenty minutes.

JILL

No. By the time we park, go in, find his room, sign in or whatever...no. These things always take longer than you think. We'll be late.

RACHEL

So we'll be late. Roger and Tommy will be there.

JILL

Yeah, Tommy's a fuckin' retard. He couldn't take an order if his life depended on it.

RACHEL So Roger can take the orders.

Jill glares at her again.

RACHEL (CONT'D) Oh, God, Jill, I'm so sorry.

JILL It's fine. Whatever.

RACHEL You like him, don't you?

JILL

Don't start.

JILL I'm dead serious. Don't even start. You're already on my shit list.

RACHEL

Why?

Jill glares at her again.

INT. - HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

KNOCK on the door. Kevin looks over at his old roommate, who's asleep. Kevin looks closer. The man is eerily still. Kevin whips an unopened Jell-o cup at the man. It hits him in the face. The man doesn't move.

KEVIN

Great.

KNOCK on the door.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Yeah.

Door opens.

GERALD (O.S.) Kevin Halloran?

KEVIN

Yeah.

GERALD enters. Gerald, 55, is a small man in a tidy suit. He has beady eyes and sharp features. Most people want to punch him in the face after being with him for five minutes.

GERALD Hi, Kevin, my name is...

KEVIN Yeah, hold up for a sec.

Kevin pages the nurse.

NURSE (O.S.) (over intercom) Yes?

KEVIN Yeah, I think my roommate's dead.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Hello?

NURSE Somebody will be right there.

KEVIN (to Gerald) Sorry. You are...?

GERALD

Names Pinsky. Gerald Pinsky. I'm a reporter for the Hittyville Times. Well, I'm also the owner slash Editor in Chief. Got a minute?

KEVIN

I already told the cops everything. You can get the story from them.

GERALD

Did you tell them it was Ricky Cory that shot you?

KEVIN Close the curtain, will you?

GERALD

Yeah. They'll never hear us through the curtain.

KEVIN

I'm not worried about that. I just don't want to watch them put that dude in a body bag. Let the man have a little dignity at least.

Gerald closes the curtain.

GERALD

Now then, about your assailant.

KEVIN

I told you, I already told the police everything.

GERALD Yes, I know. But you lied.

KEVIN Good luck proving that. GERALD There was a witness. Man in your apartment complex was out walking his dog.

KEVIN

Well then, good luck to you and the witness and his dog.

GERALD

Is that how they handle things up in Danville?

KEVIN

Typically people don't get shot in Danville.

GERALD

Do people get cold cocked in bars?

KEVIN

No. But reporters get their asses beaten in hospital rooms if they don't get the fuck out.

GERALD

Whoa, whoa, whoa. I'm on your side, fella. I'm just trying to get to the truth.

KEVIN

Yeah, well, I'm just trying to get through the day.

GERALD

So you're just going to let Ricky Cory get away with this? As if that little prick hasn't already gotten away with everything he's ever done? As if that family hasn't already ruined enough lives in this town with their greed and their lies?

KEVIN

Look. I'm sorry if I've been abrupt. I've been shot. I just found out that I have a slight fever so I can't go home until tomorrow. My roommate just died and my shoulder is killing me no matter HOW MUCH FUCKING MORPHINE I PUMP INTO MY SYSTEM... Kevin angrily hits the button that releases drops of morphine into his I.V. repeatedly.

KEVIN (CONT'D) You obviously have a beef with the Corys. I do not. I just want to recover and get on with my life. Please respect that.

GERALD Even if it means lying to the police?

KEVIN You have your story, I have mine. And guess what. I was there.

Nurses and a doctor enter the room. They shuffle about outside the curtain. The doctor calls the time of death.

GERALD Okay. If that's the way you want it. But I'm gonna get to the bottom of this. With or without you.

KEVIN Okay. You do that. By the way I loved your piece on the cat show. That's great stuff.

Kevin holds up the newspaper and waves it.

GERALD Mock me if you will. It's a small town. We have a small newspaper.

KEVIN No, no. I'm serious. Probably win you a Pulitzer.

GERALD Good day, Mr. Halloran.

Gerald leaves.

KEVIN Yeah. See ya. Can't wait to read your next article. Hey, I heard a kid took a shit over on Burton Street. Maybe you should cover that. (to himself) Prick. EXT. - BEHIND THE PIZZA PARLOR - DAY

Jill and Jeremy are smoking and talking.

JEREMY I have no idea who the dude was. Never seen him before.

JILL What time did they leave?

JEREMY I guess it was about eleven thirty or so. Maybe twelve.

JILL You swear to God it wasn't you?

JEREMY Wasn't me what?

JILL When I called this morning I could have sworn I heard your voice.

JEREMY (laughing) You think she went home with me?

JILL Oh, come on. Like you've never thought about it. I see the way you look at her.

JEREMY Yeah, she's hot but...no. Wasn't me.

JILL Swear to God?

JEREMY Swear to God.

JILL You're a lying sack of shit.

JEREMY (laughing) It wasn't me.

 JILL

Liar.

She takes a drag and exhales. JILL (CONT'D) How's Kevin? JEREMY Good. I'm hoping he calls later to get a ride home. Get me out of work for a little while. JILLHe's going home today? JEREMY Supposed to. JILLWell let me know when he calls, okay? JEREMY Yeah. Sure. Beat. JEREMY (CONT'D) You like him, don't you? JILL Course I like him. He's a cool guy. JEREMY No but you like him. JILL Whatever. You're as bad as Rachel. JEREMY I see the way you look at him. JILLGo to hell. Jill flicks her cigarette butt and walks back inside. INT. - MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY Ricky enters. RICKY

You wanted to see me?

MAYOR

Sit down.

Ricky sits down.

RICKY

What's up?

The Mayor fixes himself a cocktail.

MAYOR

What's up? I'll tell you what's up. You got that needledick reporter Pinsky crawlin' up my ass about this Halloran shooting, that's what's up. Sloppy, Ricky. Very, very sloppy.

RICKY

What? He said it was a masked guy about six feet tall. That doesn't sound like me.

MAYOR

Oh, cut the shit, Ricky. It's me you're talking to. Now, look. We have complete deniability on this. Don't worry. But goddamn it, I told you to be careful. I told you not to do anything stupid. And what do you do? You shoot a man in plain view of a guy out walking his dog. Smooth, kid. Real smooth.

RICKY Dad, I only winged him. I knew what I was doing. I wasn't going to kill him...

MAYOR That's not the point!

The Mayor throws his cocktail against a wall. It shatters all over the room.

MAYOR (CONT'D) How many FUCKING times do I have to clean up your messes? Huh?

RICKY Dad, don't worry about it. I can handle this. MAYOR Oh, yeah. Let's let you handle it. Cause that worked so well last time...

RICKY

You said it yourself, we have complete deniability on this. The guy's scared. He won't say shit.

MAYOR

God, that guy's been a prick since we were in kindergarten. Like he's fuckin' Woodward and Bernstein. Really chaps my ass. Cocksucker.

He fixes himself another drink and softens up.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

You could have done it better, son. That's all I'm saying. What he did to you was unforgiveable. So far as I'm concerned he got what was coming to him. But there's a better way to take care of these things. That's all I'm saying.

Beat.

You coming over for dinner tonight?

RICKY Yeah. I'll be there.

MAYOR Okay. See you then.

RICKY Okay. Thanks, Dad.

MAYOR

Yeah.

Ricky leaves. The Mayor presses the intercom on his desk.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

Ethel?

ETHEL (O.S.) (through intercom) Yes, sir.

MAYOR Clean up on aisle four. ETHEL

Yes, sir.

INT. - HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Soft KNOCKING on the door. Kevin is sleeping in his bed. More soft KNOCKING. The door opens. Tina enters. She moves slowly, speaks softly.

TINA

Hello?

She rounds the corner and sees Kevin sleeping.

TINA (CONT'D)

Kevin?

Kevin wakes up and blinks until everything is in focus and he fully understands who his visitor is. His knit brows relax. He is happy to see her.

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TINA (CONT'D)
(sweetly)
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Hi.

KEVIN

Hi.

TINA How are you feeling?

KEVIN Good. How are you?

TINA

Good.

KEVIN Who's your friend?

He looks at the purple stuffed octopus Tina has brought.

TINA

Oh. This is Otto. I figured you could use a couple more arms so...

KEVIN That's sweet. Thanks.

TINA (covers her mouth and begins to cry) I feel so bad. (MORE)

TINA (CONT'D) I feel like this is all my fault. I'm so sorry. This never would have happened if... KEVIN Hey, hey, you didn't do this. This wasn't your fault. TTNA It was. If I hadn't flirted with you... KEVIN That was hardly flirting. We were just talking. TINA No. I was flirting. I thought you were cute. I still do. KEVIN Well, the feeling is mutual but this still wasn't your fault. Your boyfriend's a psychopath. TINA He's not my boyfriend anymore. KEVIN Well that's good. I mean, I'm sure he has a good side, I just haven't seen it yet.

TINA

No. No. He's a spoiled prick. Always has been. I guess I thought I could change him. I don't know what I was thinking.

He was sweet for a little while. When he was first coming after me.

Goddammit I'm so stupid.

She pulls herself together and starts speaking calmly and evenly.

TINA (CONT'D) That night at the bar. After you left. When he finally came to.

She gives a slight laugh.

TINA (CONT'D) You hit him pretty hard...

Anyway, after you left he got really pissed off. More pissed off than I've ever seen him. And I've seen him pretty pissed off.

Anyway, he started blaming me. Saying it was all my fault. He called me a whore. Threw a drink in my face...

KEVIN

I'm sorry.

Tina shrugs.

TINA Anyway, that was the last time I saw him. Hopefully it'll be the last time I ever see him. Asshole.

She sniffles.

TINA (CONT'D) He drags you know.

KEVIN

What?

TINA

Oh yeah. Big old drag queen. Third Saturday of every month. Couple towns over in Mumford. Bar called the Tool Box. Goes by Nicky. Darling Nicky. After the Prince song.

I'm the only one in the world who knows. I flat busted him one night. It was his birthday and I went over to surprise him. Caught him packing up all his drag gear.

Surprise!

He totally spilled the beans. It was like it was killing him that he could never tell anyone...

(MORE)

TINA (CONT'D) I swore to God I'd never tell a soul but the way I see it all bets are off now. All is fair, as they say.

KEVIN You gotta be kidding me.

TINA

Nope. I don't think he's gay. At least he's not full on gay. Might be bi, I guess. Anyway, yeah.

KEVIN

I'll be damned.

TINA

Do me a favor, though, and keep that under your hat until I've left town.

KEVIN

Where you going?

TINA

Texas. My aunt and uncle have a ranch down there. Told me I could stay there if I was willing to do a little work. Guess we'll see how that goes. It'll be safe, though. I got a little girl. Amber. She's six. She'll be safe there. We'll both be safe there.

There's a comfortable silence between them.

KEVIN

How did you know who I was? How did you know where to find me?

TINA

It's a small town, sweetie. You sneeze in your car and the guy on the radio says 'God bless you'.

(off Kevin's look)

You left your card at the bar.

And there's only one hospital.

And there hasn't been a shooting here in over ten years so it got a good bit of press. KEVIN

When you leaving?

TINA

Well. I'm currently selling everything I own, more or less. By the way, if you're looking for furniture I can get you a deal. Then, soon as I've done that, I'm gone.

KEVIN

What kind of furniture?

TINA

Are you serious?

KEVIN

Yeah. I just moved here. I need a living room set.

TINA

I have a living room set. Couch, love seat, chair and a half, ottoman, coffee table, all of it.

KEVIN

How much?

TINA I'm trying to get a thousand for the whole set. I've only had it a year.

KEVIN

Deal.

TINA

Seriously?

KEVIN Yeah. Seriously.

TINA You haven't even seen it.

KEVIN Why? Is it girly?

TINA

No. Not at all. It's a really good deal. I swear. It's in good shape. There's a slight Kool-aid stain on the...

KEVIN You know what, I'm sure it's fine. I'm not even worried about it.

TINA

Sweet. Thanks.

KEVIN Least I could do. I do need a favor, though.

TINA What's that?

KEVIN

I could use a hand moving it in. Not sure Otto and I can manage it ourselves. Even though we have nine arms between us.

TINA

Done.

Beat.

KEVIN

I wish we could have met under different circumstances.

TINA

Yeah. Me too.

Tina grabs his good hand and gives it a squeeze.

EXT. - STREET - NIGHT

Red lights. Fire engines. Firemen. Hoses. The Hittyville Times has burned to the ground. A fireman is talking to Gerald Pinsky.

> FIREMAN Looks like it was electrical.

GERALD Electrical.

FIREMAN That's right.

GERALD That's a damn lie and you know it.

FIREMAN

You know, now that I think about it, I'm pretty sure I saw quite a few code violations in there. You could be facing some serious fines, Mr. Pinsky. Some very serious fines.

GERALD

You won't get away with this. You tell your boss Mr. Cory that he won't get away with this.

FIREMAN Now that's a damn lie. (evil smile) And you know it.

INT. - JILL'S CAR - NIGHT

Jill is on her cell phone.

JILL Yes, I'm trying to reach Kevin Halloran?

OPERATOR (O.S.) (through phone) What room?

JILL I'm not sure.

OPERATOR Hold please.

Beat.

OPERATOR (CONT'D) What was the name again?

JILL Halloran. Kevin Halloran.

OPERATOR One moment, please, I'll put you through.

JILL

Thanks.

Several rings.

KEVIN (O.S.) (through phone) Hello? JILL Kevin? KEVIN Speaking. JILLHey! It's Jill. KEVIN Hey, Jill, how's it going? JILLI'm alright. How are you? KEVIN I'm gonna make it. JILL I thought you were coming home today. KEVIN Yeah, I was supposed to but I'm running a slight fever so they're keeping me here one more night. JILL How's the shoulder? KEVIN It's alright. The morphine helps a bunch. JILL Ooooh. Save some for me. KEVIN Yeah, right? JILL Well, look, me and Rachel and Jeremy just got off work so we're going out to get completely fucked up. Wanna come?

KEVIN Sure. Where we going? JILL Up to Spuckey's.

KEVIN Okay, cool. See you in ten.

Beat.

$_{ m JILL}$

Okay, joke's over. This is making me sad.

KEVIN Don't be sad, you're going out. It'll be fun.

JILL

I wanted to see you this morning. We didn't have time, though, since Rachel was whoring it up last night and didn't get home until quarter after ten. Pretty sure she and Jeremy are doing it.

KEVIN

Really?

JILL Yeah, I'm pretty sure.

KEVIN He was here this morning, though.

JILL He probably came...Holy shit!

Jill catches sight of the scene at the Hittyville Times.

KEVIN

What?

JILL The paper's burning down.

KEVIN

The what?

JILL

The newspaper. Holy shit! There's all these fire engines and police cars in front of the Times. Good God, look at it. Oh my God, it's completely burned down. KEVIN

That's fucked up.

JILL

Yeah. Hey, I'm gonna let you go, okay? I just wanted you to know I was thinking about you.

KEVIN

Preciate it.

JILL When you get all better you'll have to come out drinking with us one night.

KEVIN Yeah. We'll do that. We'll do that lots of times.

JILL Cool. Oh, and, hey, Rachel and I are working the late shift tomorrow so we were gonna come by and see you before work, if you're up for it.

KEVIN Yeah. That'd be great. Love to see you guys.

JILL Okay, cool. Alright I gotta go. See you tomorrow.

KEVIN Uh huh. See you then.

INT. - JILL AND RACHEL'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jill is drinking coffee and reading a magazine. Her cell phone RINGS.

JILL

Hello?

KEVIN (O.S.) (through phone) Hey. It's Kevin.

JILL Hey. How you doing? KEVIN Good. Real good, matter of fact. My fever broke last night so they're sending me home.

JILL

Oh. That's great. Guess I won't be coming to see you then.

KEVIN

Well, not at the hospital anyway. Hey, do you know where Jeremy is by any chance?

JILL

Unh-uh. No idea. He's not here. Him and Rach are still trying to keep it on the down low. Like it's some big secret. Did you try to call him?

KEVIN

I did but I think I just have his cell. Do you have his home phone number?

JILL He doesn't have one, he just uses his cell. He's not answering it?

KEVIN

No. I tried it a couple times but...

JILL He's probably still passed out. We got pretty hammered last night.

KEVIN

Oh. Oh, alright. Guess I'll just call a cab then. Thanks any...

JILL Call a cab to take you home?

KEVIN

Yeah. They're finishing up all the paperwork now. I'll probably get to leave soon. He told me...

JILL Don't call a cab, I'll take you home. KEVIN Oh, it's no big deal. I'm only a couple blocks...

JILL No, no, no. Let me pick you up. I want to. I want to see you.

KEVIN Uh...okay...if you're sure it's no problem. I'd hate to impose...

JILL Stop. I'll be there in half an hour?

KEVIN Uh, yeah. Half hour will be perfect. Thanks.

JILL See you then.

INT. - MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

The Mayor sits with Cop #1 and Cop #2.

MAYOR Hey, did you guys happen to read that article in the paper this morning?

The two cops look at each other, confused.

MAYOR (CONT'D) Oh, that's right. There was no paper this morning.

He laughs heartily. The two cops catch on and start laughing as well.

COP #2 Good one, Chief.

INT. - JILL'S CAR - DAY

Jill is driving Kevin home. She pulls into a parking spot in front of Kevin's apartment.

KEVIN This is it. Kevin gets out of the car and opens the back door. He takes out a backpack and slings it over his right shoulder.

> KEVIN (CONT'D) Thanks for the ride. See you around, I guess.

JILL You need a hand with anything?

KEVIN Nope. I'm good.

JILL Want me to make you a sandwich or anything? Do some laundry?

KEVIN Nah, I'll make do. I really want to just take a shower in my own shower and sleep in my own bed. Check my mail. You know.

JILL Okay. Well, see you around.

Jill reverses very quickly and speeds off, like she's angry or in a big rush. Kevin looks after her, his eyebrows knit.

INT. - KEVIN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Kevin unlocks his door and enters. His cell phone RINGS. He picks it up off the sideboard and opens it with his chin.

KEVIN

Hello?

GERALD Mr. Halloran. Hello. It's Gerald Pinsky.

KEVIN How did you get this number?

GERALD Oh. A good reporter never reveals his sources. You'll be happy to know, though, that Richard Cory burned down the Hittyville Times last night.

KEVIN I heard. That sucks. GERALD

You sure I can't persuade you to come clean about the shooting?

KEVIN

Not a chance.

GERALD So we're just gonna let this corruption go unchecked?

KEVIN Correct. Although I do have something that might be of interest to you.

GERALD

Oh?

KEVIN Can't tell you what it is quite yet

but give me a call in two, three weeks.

GERALD Oh, I'll be sure to do that. And just for the record I think you're a coward.

KEVIN That's fine. Sticks and stones. Good luck to you in your war against the Corys.

GERALD (furious) I can't believe...

Kevin closes the phone with his chin.

INT. - GROCERY STORE - DAY

Kevin is shopping. He's in the soup aisle looking at different kinds of soups, trying to decide which ones to buy. Rachel silently approaches him and gently rams his cart.

RACHEL (kidding) Hey, you jerk, watch where you're going.

Kevin looks surprised then realizes who it is.
Oh. Hey.

RACHEL How's it going? I didn't know you shopped here.

KEVIN Yep. You ever tried this one?

He holds up the can of soup he's deliberating on.

RACHEL Yeah. It's good.

Kevin puts it in his cart. Rachel looks at the contents of his cart: mostly ramen noodles and mac and cheese.

RACHEL (CONT'D) Is that what you eat?

KEVIN This and pizza.

RACHEL Like carbs much?

KEVIN There's hot dogs in here.

RACHEL

God. That's awful. When was the last time you had a home cooked meal?

KEVIN Where do you think I cook all this stuff?

RACHEL

No, I mean a real home-cooked meal. Like with a salad, maybe some wine...

KEVIN Oh. God. Been years.

RACHEL

Years?

KEVIN Yeah. At least three years. RACHEL Don't you ever go to your parents' house for dinner?

KEVIN Parents are gone.

RACHEL Both of them?

KEVIN

Yep.

He holds up another can of soup.

KEVIN (CONT'D) What about this one?

RACHEL

That one's good too. You're breaking my heart. Come over tonight. Jill and I are cooking spaghetti and meatballs.

KEVIN Yeah, no carbs there.

RACHEL

Yeah, I know. But Jill makes an awesome marinara. Plus we'll have salad. When was the last time you ate a salad?

KEVIN

Three years I guess.

RACHEL Yeah. You're coming over.

KEVIN

Thanks but...

RACHEL

Oh no, no, no. No buts. You're coming. Even if I have to come to your apartment and drag you over.

KEVIN

Okay. Thanks.

RACHEL

I'll invite Jeremy too. It'll be a double date.

KEVIN Let me guess: you're with Jeremy.

RACHEL Why would you say that? Because you like Jill?

KEVIN Yeah. That's why.

RACHEL I know you do.

KEVIN Whatever. Everyone knows you and Jeremy are doing it.

RACHEL (looking shocked) Everyone does not know. Besides we're not even.

KEVIN Okay. Have it your way.

RACHEL Six thirty. Don't be late.

KEVIN

Kay.

Rachel walks off. Kevin holds up one last can of soup.

KEVIN (CONT'D) What about this one?

RACHEL (trailing off) That one sucks.

Kevin shrugs and puts it in his cart anyway. He takes out his cell phone, opens it with his chin and pushes some buttons.

JEREMY (O.S.) (through phone) Hello?

KEVIN Hey. Rachel's about to call you to invite you for dinner. Say yes.

JEREMY

Uh, okay.

KEVIN Hey can you pick me up?

JEREMY

Uh, okay.

KEVIN Cool. Dinner's at six thirty so try to get to my place by six.

JEREMY

Okay.

KEVIN We'll have an apertif, if you know what I mean.

JEREMY I don't know what that means.

KEVIN It's a cocktail served before meals in Europe. Only in our case it won't be a cocktail, if you know what I mean.

JEREMY Yeah, man. Sounds good. Ooh, that's her. Gotta jump.

KEVIN See you at six.

INT. - KEVIN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Tina, her brother MATT and his friend CHRIS have just delivered the living room furniture. Matt and Chris are strapping young lads. Kevin is seeing them off. He shakes their hands before they leave.

> KEVIN Matt. Chris. Thanks again. Couldn't've done it without you.

MATT Yeah, no problem.

CHRIS Anytime, man.

They leave. Tina stays. Kevin pulls out a wad of bills from his pocket and gives it to Tina.

Tina counts it.

TINA

Here, you gave me too much.

She tries to hand back some bills.

KEVIN

Oh. That's for the guys for helping out.

TINA Oh, you don't have to do that. He's my little brother.

KEVIN No, it was really cool of them. Tell them drinks are on me.

TINA Okay. That's really nice. Thanks.

Beat.

KEVIN So when you leaving?

TINA It's looking like early next week.

KEVIN Wow. Your girl looking forward to seeing all the pretty horses?

TINA Yeah. That's all she talks about these days. That and the fact that she doesn't have to go to her school anymore. She doesn't like her school.

KEVIN Well the change will be good for her.

TINA Yeah. Be good for both of us, really. I been in this town way too long. KEVIN Okay if I call you from time to time. See how you're doing?

TINA Yeah. I'd like that.

KEVIN Okay. I'll do it then.

Beat.

TINA Well, I guess this is good-bye.

KEVIN

Yeah.

They make several attempts to hug. It's awkward.

TINA Here I just...

KEVIN

Oh, yeah...

TINA Your shoulder...

KEVIN

Yeah.

TINA If we could just...

KEVIN Oh, fuck this.

Kevin gently but firmly grabs the back of Tina's head and kisses her deeply, passionately. She returns it in kind and then some. It smoulders for a good twenty seconds, then they pull away slowly, their eyes to the ground.

TINA

Ooookay.

KEVIN

Yeah.

TINA Nice doin' business with ya.

KEVIN

Yeah.

KEVIN

Yeah.

Tina leaves. Kevin slowly closes the door behind her and leans on it for a beat or two.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Wow.

INT. - KEVIN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY - LATER

Kevin is sitting on his new couch playing Grand Theft Auto Four. The room is dark save for the electric blue strobe of the TV. He is transfixed by the game. There's lots of SHOOTING and CAR NOISES coming from the TV.

There's a KNOCK on the door.

KEVIN

Come in.

Jeremy enters.

JEREMY S'up freak?

KEVIN Hey, man, what's up?

JEREMY Sweet. Is that four?

KEVIN Yeah. Just came in.

JEREMY Awesome. Kick that hooker. Kick her.

KEVIN What time is it?

JEREMY It's almost six thirty.

KEVIN Oh, shit. We gotta go.

Kevin pauses the game, gets up, painfully puts on his jacket and grabs a bottle of wine off his breakfast counter. KEVIN (CONT'D) Hey, dude, can you carry this?

JEREMY Oo la la. You bought wine?

KEVIN Flowers too. Figure it was the least we could do.

JEREMY You tryin' to get some lovin' from Jill?

KEVIN Why would you say Jill? What if I'm tryin' to get with Rachel?

JEREMY Are you trying to get with Rachel?

KEVIN No. This is just the way my mama raised me. Come on, we'll smoke up in the car.

JEREMY

My man.

They start to leave but Jeremy sets down the wine and picks up the gaming control.

JEREMY (CONT'D) Let me just kick this hooker a few more times.

KICKING and MOANING NOISES come from the TV.

KEVIN Come on, dude, we gotta go. We're late.

JEREMY

Okay coming.

He presses a few more buttons then sets the control down, picks up the wine and heads for the door.

KEVIN What's with you and kicking hookers?

JEREMY I like kicking hookers.

KEVIN

Lock that door, will ya?

Jeremy locks and closes the door behind him.

INT. - JILL AND RACHEL'S APARTMENT - DAY

KNOCK on the door. Jill answers it.

JILL

Wow. Look at you guys. And you bought wine! And flowers! That's so sweet. And you look so handsome. Come on in, dinner's ready.

Kevin and Jeremy enter.

JILL (CONT'D) Just toss your coats on the couch there.

They obey.

JILL (CONT'D) Rach! The guys are here!

Rachel comes out into the living/dining/kitchen area.

RACHEL You guys are...awww, you bought flowers!

 JILL

And wine!

RACHEL And look, Jeremy, you even look nice.

JILL He cleans up nice, doesn't he?

Jeremy gives a "what the hell" gesture.

JEREMY

Do I not usually look nice?

RACHEL No, you're fine, it's just...well, nevermind. Hi. It's good to see you.

Rachel gives Jeremy a smooch.

JEREMY Well, I guess that cat's out of the bag.

RACHEL Oh, come on, everyone knows already.

Kevin and Jill share a look.

JEREMY How does everyone know?

RACHEL Doesn't matter. Sit down. Get some salad. You too, Kevin.

Jeremy and Kevin sit down.

INT. - JILL AND RACHEL'S APARTMENT - LATER

Jill, Rachel, Kevin and Jeremy sit around the table, post meal. They are sated and happy. A phone RINGS.

RACHEL Oooh. That's my mom. I gotta get that.

Rachel gets up and leaves.

JEREMY Hey, Jill, where's your bathroom?

JILL Back between the bedrooms. Just follow Rachel.

JEREMY

Kay, thanks.

Jeremy gets up and leaves.

JILL Wanna go smoke?

KEVIN

Sure.

JILL Grab your glass. We'll go up on the roof.

Jill grabs her glass and the bottle of wine.

KEVIN Should we tell...

JILL They'll figure it out. Plus it'll give them some time alone. Come on.

EXT. - APARTMENT ROOF - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Jill and Kevin smoke cigarettes and drink their wine up on the roof. A high school MARCHING BAND plays faintly in the distance.

> KEVIN Huh. Never saw the whole town before.

JILL Not much to it.

She points in various directions as she speaks.

JILL (CONT'D) I grew up just over there. Lived in the same house until two years ago. There's the elementary school, there's the middle school, over there's the high school. Guess there's a football game tonight.

Man, I gotta get out of this town.

KEVIN Where you gonna go?

JILL Anywhere. Did I tell you Tina Gardner came by the other day?

KEVIN Who's Tina Gardner?

JILL

Tina. The girl you were flirting with at Reuben's. Ricky Cory's girlfriend. Or, ex-girlfriend I should say. Came by with her little girl. Her girl's cute. I know the baby daddy. Used to date him, matter of fact. That was before Tina started dating him. That man was good for exactly one thing. KEVIN

What's that?

JILL

Nothing. Had some pretty blue eyes, though. We both fell for them. She fell a little harder than I did, obviously. Said she's moving down to Texas.

KEVIN Yeah, she told me.

JILL (surprised) When was this?

KEVIN She came to see me in the hospital the other day.

JILL

When?

KEVIN The other day. Bought some furniture off her.

JILL You guys got a thing goin'?

KEVIN

No.

JILL

You sure?

KEVIN

I'm sure.

JILL Cause it sure sounds like you got a thing goin'.

KEVIN

Nah. It would never work. We're too star-crossed.

JILL What does that even mean? Just, you know...another time, another place, we might've had something. But not here. Not now. It's just not in the cards.

There's a word for it. I knew it once but I can't think of it now.

 $_{
m JILL}$

Unrequited.

KEVIN Yeah. That sounds about right.

Jill grows uneasily quiet.

KEVIN (CONT'D) What's the matter?

JILL

Nothing.

KEVIN Seemed like you got really sad just then. What happened?

JILL I dunno. I'm jealous, I guess.

KEVIN Jealous of what?

 JILL

That Tina's getting out of this town. That you like her. I dunno. You got any weed?

KEVIN

Yeah.

Rachel comes through the door on the roof.

RACHEL Hey you freaks, come on. We're going out.

JILL Where we going?

RACHEL Spuckey's. Big Underwear is playing tonight. MONTAGE of photos from the night out showing the foursome doing shots, drinking beers, dancing, hugging on each other. They seem to have befriended a HOBO at some point during the evening.

INT. - JILL AND RACHEL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The foursome stumbles in, very drunk. Jeremy and Rachel stagger off to Rachel's bed. Kevin dives for the couch and lies there, eyes closed, face up.

JILL Unh-uh. You're not sleeping here. Come to my bed.

KEVIN Can't. Hammered.

Jill starts to pull on him.

KEVIN (CONT'D) No, seriously, I'll get sick...be gross...yucky...

JILL You can make it, come on.

KEVIN No can't...room's spinning...I'll hurl. Seriously. Just leave me here.

Jill, obviously dejected, slumps off to bed.

INT. - JILL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jill lies awake in her bed. From the other room she hears spanking and other naughty noises as Jeremy and Rachel fool around. She pulls a pillow from behind her head and covers her face. Her body shakes as she cries without abandon.

INT. - BAR - DAY

Sad songs play on the juke box, pool balls SMASH together. Gerald Pinksy sits at the bar. He's a wreck. He swizzles his cocktail mindlessly, oblivious to everything going on around him. The front door CREAKS open and Kevin walks in. He sits at the end of the bar, his back to the wall. His arm is no longer in a sling.

The BARTENDER greets him. He's a big, fat man with a beard, tattoos, and a t-shirt that's too small.

BARTENDER What can I getcha?

KEVIN Bottle of Bud, please.

BARTENDER

See some ID?

Kevin shows his ID. The bartender CRACKS open a beer and sets it down on the bar in front of Kevin.

BARTENDER (CONT'D) Three fifty.

Kevin puts a bill on the bar.

KEVIN Keep the change.

BARTENDER

Thanks, buddy.

Kevin takes a big swig and sets his beer down. Gerald continues to swizzle his drink.

GERALD

Mr. Halloran.

KEVIN Gerald. How are you?

GERALD

Oh, I'm fine. Except for the fact that it took me eighteen years to build a profitable newspaper and in one night it was burned to the ground by the Mayor's henchmen.

But aside from that I'm fine.

KEVIN Yeah, sorry about your paper. Sucks, man.

GERALD

Oh. Well. You're sorry. Well, that makes it all better. Thanks. Don't suppose you'd be willing to tell the authorities that Ricky Cory shot you so we could at least get one of those bastards, would you? Are you that sorry?

KEVIN

No.

GERALD Didn't think so. Chicken shit.

KEVIN See? There you go again with the name calling. That doesn't help anything.

Look, Gerald, print's dead. Everyone knows that. It's all about the internet these days. Hell, even the big newspapers are moving that way. Bit of advice for you: get a copy of Building Web Sites for Dummies and start up thehittyvilletimes dot com.

Can't burn down the internet.

Gerald slowly turns his head to Kevin.

GERALD

That's it? That's why you wanted to meet me?

KEVIN

No. I wanted to tell you that there's a bar over in Mumford called the Tool Box. You should go there this Saturday night. Bring a camera. Probably won't solve all your problems but I think it will help.

GERALD If I go there will you testify?

KEVIN Forget testifying. You'll never bring them to justice for all they've done. But trust me, this will help. Kevin all but finishes his beer.

GERALD

Trust you.

KEVIN

Үер.

GERALD Tool Box.

DOL DON.

KEVIN

Үер.

GERALD

Saturday.

KEVIN

Үер.

GERALD

Mumford.

KEVIN

Үер.

GERALD

Okay.

KEVIN There you go. I promise you won't be disappointed.

Kevin finishes his beer, slaps Gerald on the arm and puts some money on the bar.

KEVIN (CONT'D) Here. Drinks are on me.

Kevin leaves. Gerald resumes staring at his drink.

INT. - PIZZA PARLOR - DAY

Kevin is making a pizza. Rachel puts up an order.

RACHEL Need a medium veggie and a large cheese.

KEVIN

Roger that.

RACHEL Also need a favor.

KEVIN

Kay.

RACHEL (sotto voce) So, you know Jill's birthday is coming up.

KEVIN

Yeah.

RACHEL

So, I was thinking about throwing a surprise party for her next Saturday.

KEVIN

Sweet.

RACHEL

Yeah. But I need you to get her out of the house for a couple hours so I can set everything up.

KEVIN What if we're working?

RACHEL

I already set it up with Roger. He's going to schedule all of us for the early shift next Saturday so we'll be off by eight.

KEVIN

Okay.

RACHEL So you'll do it?

KEVIN Sure. Be happy to.

EXT. - BEHIND THE PIZZA PARLOR - DAY

Jill and Kevin are smoking and talking.

KEVIN

Hey, where's a good place to get Chinese food in this town?

JILL In this town? Nowhere. KEVIN Been craving Chinese. JILL There's a good place over in Dodgen. KEVIN You've been there? JILL Uh huh. It's good. KEVIN Wanna go? JILL Sure. When? KEVIN How 'bout Saturday? JILLAfter work you mean? KEVIN Yeah. JILL Okay. KEVIN You mind driving? JILLFigured that was coming. KEVIN Tell you what. If you drive, I'll pick up the check.

 $_{
m JILL}$

Deal.

INT. - MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

The Mayor is at his desk, looking at his computer. The two cops stand behind him.

MAYOR What's the address? COP #2 Http. Colon. Forward... MAYOR Just give me the domain. COP #2 The what? MAYOR The domain. COP #2 Oh. Http. Colon... MAYOR That's the... It's Firefox, I just need the...here, give it to me. Cop #2 hands the Mayor a small, torn piece of paper. MAYOR (CONT'D) Shittyville dot com. Oh that's clever. Never heard that before. It's only spraypainted on the goddamn water tower every year ... He waits impatiently for the page to load. MAYOR (CONT'D) Come on. Piece of shit. Finally. What is this? What am I looking at? Is this a fag site? What the? COP #2 Is that Ricky? MAYOR Oh dear God ... (reading to self)...son of Hittyville Mayor Richard Cory was in full flower at the Seventh Annual Queen's Ball in... His lips continue to move as he reads, though there's a pause in the audio until he resumes...

MAYOR (CONT'D) Ricky, whose Drag name is Darling Nicky, won first place honors with his over the top costume and his sultry rendition of "It's Raining Men"...

The Mayor buries his head in his hands. The two cops give each other an uneasy look and try to hide their amusement.

The Mayor presses the intercom.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

Ethel?

ETHEL (O.S.) (through intercom) Yes, sir?

MAYOR Ethel, get my son in here now. Or should I say my daughter.

ETHEL

Sir?

MAYOR Ricky. Here. Now.

ETHEL

Yes, sir.

INT. - JILL AND RACHEL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Rachel is busy putting up decorations, filling bowls with ice, etc. A good number of guests are mingling, drinking, etc. Rachel's phone RINGS.

RACHEL (loudly) Hey, everybody, be quiet that might be Jill.

The guests shush each other down. Rachel looks at her cell phone. She answers it.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Hello?

KEVIN (O.S.) (through phone) Hey. She's on her way. RACHEL What do you mean? Aren't you with her?

KEVIN No. She just dropped me off. I had to act natural and that was the natural thing to do.

RACHEL Shit. You're right. Guess I didn't think of that.

KEVIN Is everybody there?

Rachel signals to the guests that it's okay to talk again.

RACHEL Yeah. Does she suspect anything?

KEVIN No. She's clueless.

RACHEL

Good.

Beat.

RACHEL (CONT'D) Awww. Kev. You're gonna miss the surprise.

KEVIN

Yeah, I know. Take some pictures, will you?

RACHEL

Of course.

KEVIN

Thanks.

RACHEL So you're still coming, right?

KEVIN Yeah. Only I'll have to call a cab so it might be a little while.

RACHEL Cab? What? No. Don't call a cab. We'll come get you. Soon as we yell surprise I'll come pick you up.

KEVIN Oh, you don't have to come. I mean, I appreciate it and all but, I mean, you have to play hostess so... RACHEL No, no, no. No big deal. Jill can take over for a little while. KEVIN You could send Jeremy. RACHEL Unh uh. I need to talk to you anyway so that'll give us a chance to talk. KEVIN What about? RACHEL About Jill. KEVIN What about Jill? RACHEL I'll tell you when we talk. I gotta qo. She's gonna be here any minute now. KEVIN Okay. See you in a few. INT. - JILL'S CAR - NIGHT

Rachel and Kevin are driving to the party, passing a joint back and forth and listening to soft rock from the 70s.

RACHEL So just give it to me straight: are you into Jill or not?

KEVIN

Yeah. I am.

RACHEL So why haven't you done anything about it? KEVIN

I dunno. I guess I don't want it to end.

RACHEL

What?

KEVIN

Our relationship. I like it the way it is. I like seeing her when I go to work. I liked getting Chinese food with her tonight. I like that we're friends.

RACHEL

That makes no sense at all. If you were going out with her you could see her all the time. When you go to bed, when you get up in the morning...

KEVIN Yeah but...

RACHEL

But what?

KEVIN

(sighs)

It's like this. The second you kiss a person, a clock starts counting down. It's the beginning of the end. Might be a month, might be a year, might be five years. But things fall apart. Relationships just fail far more often than they succeed. It's the nature of the beast. And I don't want my relationship with Jill to end. Ever.

So, I guess, to answer your question...I guess I haven't done anything because I really, really like her.

I like her too much to kiss her.

RACHEL

Wow. That is the most romantic thing I think I've ever heard in my life.

RACHEL (CONT'D) It's also complete and utter bullshit.

KEVIN

It's not. Think of all the guys you've dated. Remember that magic feeling before you kissed them? And now how do you feel about them?

RACHEL

Hey. I'm still friends with several guys I've dated.

KEVIN Yeah but it's different, isn't it? The magic is gone.

RACHEL

I guess. At least we had some good times, though. The memories are nice.

Beat.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Look, dude. Jill's been talking a lot about you. She likes you. A lot. But what you don't realize is that your relationship is gonna change either way. Either you make a move or she'll pull away. I've known her a long time. I've seen this before. She'll start pulling back and getting colder and colder and when you talk to her the talk will get smaller and smaller.

Eventually things will boil down to saying 'hi' and 'bye' and 'some weather we've been having'. Trust me.

You didn't go to bed with her the night we went out and I heard about it for a week. She came home tonight and after the big surprise she looked so sad I thought she was going to cry. She was expecting something to happen tonight. With you, I mean. (MORE) RACHEL (CONT'D) And I knew the second she walked in the door that it didn't happen.

KEVIN Well...the night is still young.

EXT. - ROOF - NIGHT

The party is in full swing. Guests are drinking and laughing. Several guests have started lighting fireworks.

> GUEST #1 I don't know who started it but it's hilarious.

GUEST #2 What's the name of the site?

GUEST #1 Shittyville dot com. You gotta check it out. He's all in drag, singing, dancing.

That dude used to terrorize me in high school.

GUEST #2 Oh. He was a dick to everyone. Guess it's because he had to supress his inner homo. I can't wait to see him in drag.

Off in another corner of the party people start singing Happy Birthday.

EXT. - ROOF - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Rachel carefully carries a birthday cake over to Jill. There are twenty-six candles on it. Jill is wearing a tiara and holding a sparkler. The crowd finishes the song.

RACHEL Make a wish.

Jill pauses and blows out the candles. The crowd cheers.

RACHEL (CONT'D) Who wants cake?

GUESTS I do. Me, etc. Kevin is sitting on an adirondack style lawn chair. Jill is sitting on his lap wearing his jacket and her birthday tiara. Her head is resting on his shoulder and her eyes are closed. He is much bigger than she is.

> KEVIN J'ya have a good birthday? JILL Mmm hmmm. KEVIN J'ya get your wish? JILL Not yet. KEVIN Whadja wish for? JILL Can't tell. KEVIN You can tell me. JILL Unh uh. Can't tell you or it won't come true.

Beat.

KEVIN

Jill?

JILL

Hmmm?

KEVIN Do you remember what your fortune said tonight?

JILL

Mmmm. Said I would be taking a trip to a far off land. Guess that fortune doesn't know me too well. I've never been out of Hittyville County.

KEVIN

Really?

 JILL

Mmm hmmm.

KEVIN

Huh.

Beat.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Jill?

JILL

Hmmm?

KEVIN How hammered are you?

JILL Pretty hammered.

KEVIN So if I told you something do you think you would remember it?

JILL

Mmm hmmm.

Beat.

KEVIN

Baby?

Jill suddenly wakes up and looks him in the eyes.

JILL Did you just call me baby?

KEVIN

Yeah.

Beat.

KEVIN (CONT'D) I need to tell you something...and...it's probably gonna change things a bit. But I have to tell you anyway.

JILL What is it?

KEVIN Well...I got you a present... JILL You already took me out to dinner.

KEVIN

I know but...

Beat.

JILL What is it?

KEVIN

Here's the thing: My dad died when I was seven. He didn't have any insurance so my mom and I had to get by on her teaching salary and checks from Social Security. It wasn't horrible or anything, we got by just fine. But my mom swore to herself that she wouldn't make the same mistake my dad made.

So when she passed on a couple years ago, I collected a pretty big death benefit. Don't get me wrong, I'd rather have my mom around but...Anyway, I also got the house we lived in...So right before I moved here I sold the house and made even more money.

What I'm saying is, if I give you something big, I don't want you to think it's this huge thing, cause, to me it's really not. I know that sounds kind of arrogant but I want you to accept the present I'm about to give you.

JILL

What is it?

Kevin reaches into the inside pocket of his jacket, which is close to Jill's breasts. She's a little breathtaken at first but understands when he pulls out the envelope. He gives it to her.

> KEVIN Here. Happy birthday, sweetie.

Jill opens the envelope to find two airline tickets, an itinerary and a brochure to a tropical island. She's stunned.

JILL Oh my God. Kevin! Who's the other ticket for? KEVIN Anyone you want. Or you could sell it and go by yourself. Totally up to you. Jill gets a devilish look on her face. JILL If I take you...will you finally fucking kiss me? KEVIN Yeah. JILLYou sure? KEVIN I'm sure. JILL Can I get some proof of that? Little security deposit? KEVIN Wow. A security deposit. That's hot. JILLShut up. They kiss tenderly. Jill smiles. JILL (CONT'D) I got my wish. KEVIN Me too. EXT. - BEACH - NIGHT Jill and Kevin lie on a blanket looking up at the stars. Small waves roll in gently. The moon lights the night. JILL Can I ask you a personal question?

KEVIN

Shoot.

JILL

Normally I wouldn't ask this but I figure we've been having sex like rabbits on roofies for the past week so I figure that earns me a pass.

KEVIN

You're right. It does. That was written into international law at the Geneva Convention.

JILL

How much money do you actually have? I mean, what I really want to know is...do you have enough to open your own pizza shop?

KEVIN

Probably.

JILL Why don't you?

KEVIN Because I'm twenty-eight.

JILL

What's that got to do with it?

KEVIN

Owning a pizza shop is a lot of work. You see how much Roger's there. Dude never takes a day off. I don't want that much responsibility at this point in my life.

JILL So you could hire a manager.

KEVIN Nah. I'd want to run the show.

JILL

So you have thought about it?

KEVIN

Oh sure. Guess I thought I would do it some day. Just not now. One day, though. When I'm ready to settle down.

Beat.

JILL You could hire me as a manager.

KEVIN Hmmm. Then I'd be sleeping with the boss. That's fraught with peril.

JILL

Fraught with peril?

KEVIN

Indeed.

JILL I got news, sweetie. You're already sleeping with the boss.

KEVIN You're not the boss of me.

JILL

Am too.

KEVIN

Are not.

Jill rolls onto her side and starts kissing Kevin.

JILL (softly) Am too.

KEVIN

Are not.

Jill starts running her hands down his body.

 $_{
m JILL}$

Am too.

KEVIN

00000.

Okay, you are.

Jill kisses him again.

JILL But you're my favorite employee. Probably get Employee of the Month, depending on how this goes... JILL Feels like you already have a bonus...

...a big bonus.

Kevin smiles.

FADE OUT