THE BLACK LIST

SHOVEL BUDDIES.

Jason Hellerman

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Appeared on Black List: No

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SHOVEL BUDDIES.

By: Jason Hellerman

Jay.Hellerman@gmail.com
484 832 7618

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FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST - MORNING

SUPER: MARCH 21st, 2004.

The wheels of a ten-speed bicycle barrel down a tiny dirt trail, snapping branches and kicking leaves as they go.

JIMMY GIBBONS (16) dressed in an out of place three piece suit, pushes his body and the Wal-Mart bike to its limits. He's breathing hard but not slowing down. Steam rises off his head and flows from his nostrils. Mud splatters against his oversized jacket. Mom is going to be pissed but he's not worried about that now.

JIMMY
Keep up.

Behind him, his brother TOM GIBBONS (12) Called LUMP; not from spite but observation; "He's always just . . . there." Lump is the spitting image of Jimmy; Same attire, same expression, smaller bike.

LUMP
Slow down.

EXT. HILL - MORNING

The Philadelphia skyline accents the otherwise dreary view. In the foreground, the shell of Veteran's Stadium is prominent. Soft rain falls.

Jimmy cycles into view. He's off and to the summit before his bicycle THUDS to the ground. Lump is close behind; his dress shoes slide on the frost. Their shirts are damp from exertion. They shiver.

Lump leans to Jimmy for warmth but he pushes him away.

BOOM. BOOOM. BOOOOM.

The stadium implodes. Dust and debris scatter the atmosphere. CHEERS from the city below. The boys steep in the destruction.

LUMP
We made it.

JIMMY
Told you.

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A VOICE forces them to divert their attention.

DAN (O.S.)
Better to go with a bang than a whimper.

DAN STRONG (15), thick glasses and spider-like limbs. The epitome of “bad influence.” He lets a limp cigarette dangle from his lips. He’s also clad in a black suit.

DAN (CONT’D)
They already poured the concrete for the new one.

JIMMY
My old man said it’s having trouble drying because of the cold.

DAN
We dressed for the same party?

Dan strides to Jimmy and messes with his suit coat.

Jimmy shifts in his loafers. Dan puffs his cigarette. He blows smoke at Jimmy. Jimmy swats his hand away but Dan has the upper hand. He gives a menacing grin.

DAN (CONT’D)
Better late than never.

Without pause, Dan walks over the crest of the hill out of sight. Jimmy turns his attention back to the city where cranes have already started to clean up the rubble.

LUMP
You guys are talking again?

JIMMY
Only when we have to.

INT. SAMMY’S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

A closed black casket. Front and center. It’s a simple box bland and unassuming. Gaudy roses and lilies flank the coffin. WEEPERS WAIL in the background.

Jimmy runs his hand over the lid. Lump cowers behind Jimmy. Their suits are mud spattered and hair slick with sweat but they are reverent.

MOURNERS stock the room. Even though they don black you can see the blue tinge to their collars. Some are UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICERS.

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Jimmy takes his hand from the lid and SIGHS. He turns in time to see --

DAN
I'm popping the lid.

Dan moves to the side of the coffin and pulls upward. The lid lifts a quarter inch before it stops on Jimmy's outstretched hand.

DAN (CONT'D)
When's the last time you saw Sammy?

Jimmy pushes the lid it closes with a BANG. A few mourners look over but most keep conversing. Dan feigns offence but Jimmy knows if his hand wasn't there they would all have a good look at his dead friend by now.

DAN (CONT'D)
It's probably empty. They're cremating him tomorrow.

LUMP
What's cremation?

DAN
They burn the body. Then they put the ashes in a can.

JIMMY
(to Dan)
You're going to scare him.

LUMP
I'm not scared.

DAN
Then they dump him somewhere and he blows away.

JIMMY
(to Lump)
It's not like that --

DAN
Then what's it like?

Jimmy's not ready with a retort. He moves his hand back to the coffin lid. His eyes move to a WREATH in the corner. It is full of Green and White flowers. The emblem of the PHILADELPHIA EAGLES in the center.

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DAN (CONT'D)
Make a Wish was supposed to get a few players to visit.

JIMMY
They were coming tomorrow.

DAN
You're not the only one a day late.

Jimmy winces at this one. Dan reaches for the lid again.

DAN (CONT'D)
Sure you don't want to say "bye" face to face?

Jimmy stares at a large framed picture of a smiling SAMMY HARLOW (16). He's blond, dimple faced, full of life.

JIMMY
If I had known --

DAN
Sexy, can I?

Dan's pointer finger directs their attention across the room.

KATE HARLOW, 16. Not a beauty queen but busty enough to get the boys thinking. She's showing a lot of leg for a funeral. Even some of the Cops check her out.

DAN (CONT'D)
I'd like to cheer her up, and down for that matter. Know what I mean?

JIMMY
No.

LUMP
I do.

Dan makes a pelvic thrust motion in Kate's direction.

DAN
Don't worry Lump. I have it from a reliable source that your brother knows more than he lets on.

JIMMY
Who'd you hear that from?

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DAN
Sucked having Leukemia but finding out your best friend fucked your sister, now that stings.

Jimmy lunges at Dan.

Dan hits a vase that hits the floor and shatters. Everyone turns to look at them. Dan waves at the attendees. Jimmy bends to scoop the mess into the nearest trash can.

JIMMY
Motherfucker.

DAN
Sister-fucker.

Jimmy picks up the shards and makes eye contact with Kate. She throws a wistful smile his way and approaches the guys.

KATE
Smooth.

JIMMY
I didn't mean to --

KATE
No big deal.

DAN
How you doing, baby?

KATE
Choke on a cock.

Kate uses the table cloth that was once under the vase to dry the water on the floor. She bends to meet Jimmy on the ground.

JIMMY
I like your dress.

Kate pulls it down to cover more leg.

KATE
I couldn't find one that said "sad but not broken" at Boscov's.

JIMMY
You okay?

KATE
You?

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Their eyes meet and hold.

JIMMY
Your parents?

KATE
Susan's quiet. Ted's always out of touch with emotion.

LUMP
You call your parents by their first names?

KATE
They call me by mine.
(to Jimmy)
Nice of you to finally show.

JIMMY
By the time I got here your Dad said it was too late.

KATE
Probably shouldn't have waited a week to check in.

JIMMY
Sammy didn't answer my calls.

KATE
I wasn't talking about him.

Jimmy gulps.

KATE (CONT'D)
Didn't see your Parents?

LUMP
Vacation.

Kate raises an eyebrow. Jimmy attempts to silence Lump.

JIMMY
They go to Palm Springs every winter. They said it "rejuvenates their marriage."

KATE
Oh, so they're fucking.

Lumps eyes get huge.

JIMMY
I'm watching Lump for a few days.

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KATE
While your parents fuck.

JIMMY
I guess --

Kate looks back at the coffin and nods to TED HARLOW, late 40's. He's in need of a shave and has dark circles under his eyes. He's surrounded by cops. Two rookies, TALL and his partner, STUBBY, try to get near Ted. He pushes past them and makes himself a coffee on a nearby catering table.

KATE
The entire police department has been here today.

JIMMY
That's what happens when your Dad's the chief.
(beat)
Kate, I --

KATE
It's cool. I didn't expect you to call.

Ted nods toward the guys but motions for his daughter to return to his side.

KATE (CONT'D)
The old man needs me.

JIMMY
Talk to you --

She is out of earshot.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
-- Later.

DAN
So desperate.

Dan moves toward the refreshment table on the opposite wall. Jimmy and Lump follow.

JIMMY
I've got to talk to you about something.

DAN
Shoot.

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JIMMY
In private.

Dan grabs a plate and slops casserole on one side. He gestures with the food spoon, splattering noodles on the floor.

DAN
Whatever you've got to say to me
you can say in front of my people.

Jimmy grabs a napkin and cleans up his mess.

Dan spoons Jello. Lump grabs a plate and begins to fill it. Jimmy takes the plate from Lump and puts it back on the table. He moves to the end of the buffet line and stops in front of Dan. Jimmy is a human road block.

JIMMY
Did you get --

He checks over each shoulder. No one is listening.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
-- A shovel list. From Sammy?

Dan taps his breast pocket.

DAN
He covered his ass when you decided
to spend his last days on Earth
putting it in his sister.

JIMMY
Don't you think we ought to take
care of it?

DAN
You want to do this now?

Dan chomps on hors d'oeuvres.

DAN (CONT'D)
I'm eating.
(beat)
Plus we're surrounded by pigs.

LUMP
What's a shovel list?

Jimmy glares at his brother. Dan takes a knee. He's mid-chomp on some lasagna. Specs are flying.

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DAN
Think about all the shit in your bedroom you wouldn't want your parents to see if you up and croaked.

LUMP
Like dirty dishes?

DAN
Like two-girls one cup.

MOURNERS look with disdain as spittle flies from Dan's jowls.

LUMP
I don't know what that is.

DAN
It's two girls shitting into a cup and eating it. When were you born?

LUMP
1992.

DAN
Google it. Change your life.

Jimmy taps his foot.

JIMMY
I'm going.

Jimmy gives the room one more once-over and makes a dash for the hallway. Dan sets his plate on the table. He and Lump scurry after Jimmy.

DAN
(mouth full)
Don't you ever talk to your brother?

Jimmy works his way across the room toward a set of stairs leading up. He pauses for Lump and Dan to catch up.

JIMMY
(to Lump)
Cover for us.

INT. SAMMY'S HOUSE - SECOND FLOOR

Jimmy and Dan stop in front of a door with a Philadelphia Eagles Sign: "Property Of Sammy Harlow."

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Jimmy is paralyzed.

DAN
Open it, pussy.

JIMMY
Got your list?

Dan nods. Jimmy lifts a numbered piece of paper from his pocket. Dan digs and produces a chicken scratch list.

Jimmy grabs it from his hand and puts it next to his own. Dan's has way more stuff on it.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
What's all this?

DAN
Sammy was a busy boy.

Jimmy hides the hurt look on his face. He reaches for the doorknob.

JIMMY
I don't want anyone to notice we're gone.

DAN
They're mourning a dead kid down there. No one misses us.

INT. SAMMY'S HOUSE - SAMMY'S BEDROOM

The room is literally covered in Philadelphia Eagles paraphernalia; posters, jerseys, newspaper clippings.

JIMMY
Get under the mattress and sock drawer. I'll take the closet.

DAN
I know what I'm doing.

The boys go to work.

Dan lifts the mattress to reveal SEVERAL PLAYBOYS. He rolls one and slides it in his jacket pocket. Before moving, Dan flips through the other magazine.

DAN (CONT'D)
Hello, Miss April.

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JIMMY
Stay on task.

DAN
(off the mag)
I mean, Guten Tag.
(points)
German.

Jimmy works the closet. He digs behind some clothes and pulls out a a few Porno DVDs, a small bag of weed, and a lighter.

Jimmy waves the weed at Dan.

JIMMY
Did you get him this?

DAN
He was going to die anyway.

JIMMY
His Dad's a cop.

DAN
His son had weed in his closet and he didn't find it? Shitty cop.

Jimmy does not laugh. He pockets the baggy and lighter. The DVD won't fit so he tucks it into the back of his pants.

Dan stuffs knickknacks anywhere they'll go; pants, sleeves, underwear.

JIMMY
Only what's on your list.

DAN
Sammy's not gonna miss this shit.

KATE (O.S.)
Grave robbers?

The guys drop what they're doing and turn. In the door frame stands Kate. She holds Lump's hand. Jimmy raises an eyebrow to Lump and he immediately drops her hand.

JIMMY
We wanted to get in before your parents found anything incriminating.

KATE
Got your shit together, huh?

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DAN
Somebody has to.

Lump enters the room but Kate lingers.

LUMP
Did you find two girls one cup?

Dan laughs. They watch Kate pick up a PICTURE of her family with a healthy Sammy.

Jimmy hands her a tissue out of an Eagles-themed Kleenex box.

JIMMY
It's going to be okay.

KATE
How do you know?

JIMMY
People keep saying it.

Kate reluctantly smiles.

Dan goes back to opening drawers.

Jimmy moves to the wall. He runs his hand over an ornate jersey display case. The label says "#20 Brian Dawkins." Kate watches.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Sammy's favorite.

KATE
That one's spoken for, champ.

Jimmy pulls on the case. It's locked.

Dan SLAMS a drawer, snapping Jimmy out of his trance.

DAN
I thought there'd be more drugs.

TED (O.S.)
More what?

Ted Harlow fills the door frame. He puts his hand on Kate's shoulder. His arched back and broad shoulders scream "man of the law."

Dan stops dead in his tracks. Both his hands are filled with girly magazines and a half empty bottle of whiskey.

Jimmy's hand immediately goes to the weed in his pocket.

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Dan moves his arm behind his back. Too late. Ted moves forward. He's done this before.

Ted nabs the bottle from behind Dan's back and holds it up, studying the label.

DAN
Toasting Sammy?

Jimmy rushes forward.

JIMMY
It's mine. We made this blood oath before --

Dan and Kate shoot him a look that says "Blood oath?"

TED
(to Kate)
Your Mom's looking for you.

JIMMY
If there's anything you guys need --

TED
There's not.

The room falls silent. Ted's eyes dart around the room.

JIMMY
We should be going.

Dan exits. Ted motions for Kate to follow. She grabs Lump and takes the hint. Jimmy moves behind him but Ted grabs his arm.

TED
You get everything?

Jimmy checks his list and nods.

Ted leans on the dresser and slides it aside, revealing a pile of sensuous magazines. Jimmy bends and snatches them up. Ted moves the dresser back.

JIMMY
Mr. Harlow --

TED
I better get back.

He exits and leaves Jimmy standing alone in Sammy's room.

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INT. SAMMY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Lump and Dan lean on the buffet table. Jimmy crosses the room to them.

Ted and Katie have returned to the mourners. They join SUSAN HARLOW, 40s, by the casket. Susan's face is lined and pained. She is in the perpetual state of having finished crying recently.

DAN
Fucking Lump.

LUMP
(to Jimmy)
You told me to take her to you --

Jimmy silences Lump with his eyes.

DAN
Did you have your little brother wingman you toward your dead best friend's sister?

JIMMY
Lump and I are getting out of here.

DAN
Wanna hit the Hole later?

JIMMY
Like old times?

DAN
I got a ton of shit out of the drawers before Ted came in and ruined it. Figured you may want some.

JIMMY
Thanks.

DAN
You're still anal leakage to me.

Jimmy and Lump traipse toward the exit. Jimmy searches the room and locks eyes with Kate. She shoots him a soft smile.

EXT. SAMMY'S HOUSE - DAY

Jimmy and Lump walk toward their bikes.

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LUMP
Now that Sammy's dead is Dan your new best friend?

They turn to see Dan leaving the house. Dan lights a cigarette as he goes.

JIMMY
No.

EXT. HOLE - LATE AFTERNOON

A small clearing surrounded by trees and brush. In the middle is a gulch ten feet by twenty feet. The proverbial "hole".

Jimmy rests against a large tree. He runs his hand over a carving. "Sammy Was Here." He takes out a pocket knife and crosses out "Here." Scrawls "Alive."

Lump watches him.

Dan rides up. He is wearing a backpack.

DAN
You brought the Lump?

JIMMY
I'm not supposed to leave him alone.

DAN
He's hitting the big leagues early.

Dan takes a cigarette from his pocket and hands one to Jimmy. He offers one to Lump. Jimmy steers Lump away from the cigarette and Dan.

The pinnacle of "do as I say not as I do," Jimmy lights his cigarette and puffs away.

JIMMY
(to Lump)
Don't tell Mom.

Dan dumps the contents of his backpack: Playboys, a small marijuana pipe, naked playing cards, and a plethora of key chains and cheap Eagles memorabilia.

DAN
You can have the Playboys, they're too plebeian for me.
(MORE)

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DAN (CONT'D)
(beat)
The other stuff we can split.

Jimmy pockets a keychain and the deck of cards. Lump holds a Playboy. He flips through the pages, eyes wide.

LUMP
The pictures are stuck together.

DAN
Your brother hasn't taught you how to use one of those?

JIMMY
Give it to me.

Jimmy snatches the mag from Lump's reluctant hands. There is a bulge in the spread.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
They're glued . . .

Dan is by Jimmy's side now. Lump crowds in. Jimmy tears into the fold. An envelope falls into his hands.

It's labeled "Hello, Living."

DAN
Holy shit, from beyond the grave.

Jimmy looks to Dan. He slides his finger up the seal. They press around him as he reads.

JIMMY
(from the note)
Mom, if you somehow found this I am sorry. Jimmy, I'm banking you.

DAN
(Defensive)
He knew I hated Playboys. No penetration.

JIMMY
(back to the paper)
If you've got this it means I'm dead. Weird. I miss you. Well I think I do. Not sure where I am, or will be, or what I can feel. Fuck it, who knows? Thanks for clearing out my room. When you have Leukemia you can get away with whatever you want but it doesn't mean you should leave a trail.
(MORE)

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JIMMY (CONT'D)
If you get this in time I want to be buried in my Dawkins jersey. Fuck the Cowboys. Hope no one ever has to read this.

Jimmy lowers the will. Dan tosses a log into the hole. THUD.

DAN
That was depressing.

LUMP
He got almost everything.

JIMMY
His jersey was on the wall.

DAN
What are you gonna do about it?

Jimmy is on his bike before the other two can protest.

EXT. SAMMY'S HOUSE - EVENING

Jimmy KNOCKS on the door. Will in hand. No patience, he KNOCKS again. Dan and Lump cross the front yard. Jimmy prepares to knock again when the door opens. Kate stands before them.

KATE
(off the knocker)
It fucking works.

JIMMY
I need to talk to your parents.

KATE
It's been a long day. Can this wait?

JIMMY
No.

INT. SAMMY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Susan and Ted sit on a couch. They have uneaten plates of food in front of them. There is a photo album on their coffee table with a smiling image of Sammy emblazoned on the cover. Sammy pictures scattered over a coffee table.

Jimmy and the gang BURST in the room followed by Kate.

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DAN
We’re back.

Jimmy feigns a smile and gives a half wave. Lump crowds in behind him.

JIMMY
I, well, we --

DAN
We found a will.

He points at Jimmy who produces the document.

Jimmy shakes the paper harder as if he didn’t do it hard enough the first time. Kate comes from behind and takes it from his hand and reads.

KATE
It says he wanted to be buried in his jersey.

SUSAN
He left you a note?

JIMMY
We knew you were cremating him but we wanted to make sure Sammy --

SUSAN
I didn’t get a note.

DAN
It was in a Playboy.

SUSAN
Where’d he get a Playboy?

TED
(interjecting)
I know you didn’t get to see him before he died but Sammy always said he was lucky to have you as a friend.

SUSAN
No one got to say a long enough goodbye.

TED
McDonough already took the body.

DAN
What about the jersey?

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Jimmy pushes Dan behind him.

JIMMY
Can you cremate him wearing it?

Ted reaches for the wall phone and dials. The room catches their collective breath.

DAN
This is an awkward wait.

SUSAN
I'm not sure what happened between you boys but --

Jimmy's eyes go red. The tension is cut by Ted hanging up the phone. Susan looks to him. Eyes filled with tears.

TED
No answer.

DAN
Let's get the car.

TED
Open your ears. He's gone.

Susan wades forward and tries.

SUSAN
We really do appreciate everything you did. We appreciate it. Appreciate. It. We appreciate it. We didn't get a note.

Dan points emphatically at the note.

DAN
It's right there!

Ted swoops in and holds his wife. Jimmy backs away but there's no stopping Dan.

DAN (CONT'D)
Are we doing the jersey thing or what?

JIMMY
What Dan means is --

DAN
If you're going to toast him at least do it they way he wanted.

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TED
Get out.

Ted frowns. Susan chokes a tear. Jimmy senses the tension and grabs Dan. He and Lump push Dan back down the hall. Kate follows.

INT. SAMMY'S HOUSE - HALL

Kate, Lump, and Dan stare at Jimmy.

JIMMY
Let me handle this.

INT. SAMMY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Jimmy returns to the living room.

JIMMY
We can get the jersey. I'll get someone to drive us over if you're not up to it.

Ted frowns and stares Jimmy down. Susan tries a smile from the couch.

SUSAN
We're very tired.

JIMMY
Right but --

TED
Jimmy. Go.

Jimmy backs out of the room. Ted puts his arm around Susan. She buries her face into his chest.

JIMMY
I think that --

TED
Listen and listen good - my son is halfway across town - probably already being cremated. I get that this is a big deal for you but it's a FUCKING big deal for us.

EXT. SAMMY'S HOUSE - EVENING

Kate gazes down on the action from a second story window.

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DAN
That's it?

JIMMY
I'm not giving up; I'm waiting until dark.

They hop on their bikes and ride off.

EXT. GIBBON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Three bikes lay in the glow of the modest home's porch light.

INT. GIBBON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jimmy, Lump, and Dan stroll through the foyer.

DAN
Why are we at your place?

JIMMY
The funeral home is thirty miles away. We can't bike it.

DAN
So we're?

JIMMY
My old man keeps the car keys on a dish by his nightstand.

LUMP
You only have your learner's permit.

INT. GIBBON'S HOUSE - HALLWAY

Jimmy and Dan stand in front of a large door. Jimmy reaches for the knob. It's locked.

JIMMY
Shit.

DAN
Keys?

JIMMY
My parents took them.

DAN
Your parents lock their room?

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JIMMY
They like privacy.

DAN
So trusting.

WHAM. Jimmy hurls himself at the door. It rattles.

JIMMY
You helping or what?

LUMP
Mom and Dad are going to kill us.

Jimmy stoops to Lump's level.

JIMMY
We'll grab one at Home Depot in the morning. They'll never know.

Jimmy and Dan back up. Jimmy puts his arm around Dan. They exchange an awkward glance.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
We have to do it together.

DAN
Don't get all metaphorical.

They wind up.

INT. GIBBON'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM

BAM.

The door splinters and falls to the floor. Dan and Jimmy cross the room. Jimmy snags the keys.

DAN
Can't we get a jersey while we're here? Or one from my place?

JIMMY
You got Dawkins?

DAN
McNabb.

JIMMY
I won't let you put him in McNabb.

DAN
Fuck you, McNabb is the shit.

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JIMMY
Sammy wanted Dawkins.

DAN
Fuck Sammy. We're already going out of our way to --

Jimmy grab's Dan's shirt.

DAN (CONT'D)
Do it, pussy.

LUMP (O.S.)
Hey!

Lump stands akimbo.

LUMP (CONT'D)
Are we doing this or what?

Jimmy drops Dan's shirt.

DAN
Look whose testes dropped.

EXT. GIBBON'S DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Jimmy slides the key into the lock of an ancient two door car. He turns the key as if expecting it not to work.

CLICK.

Dan holds open the passenger door. Lump moves to get in but is stopped when Jimmy grabs his shirt tail. Not so fast.

JIMMY
(to Lump)
You're staying.

LUMP
I want to go.

JIMMY
It's too dangerous.

DAN
If you leave him he's gonna blow our cover. Again.

JIMMY
What if mom calls and we don't answer?

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LUMP
She never calls.

JIMMY
(to Lump)
You'll get in the way.

LUMP
I promise I won't.

JIMMY
You're not coming.

LUMP
Fuck you.

The brothers stare.

DAN
Let him fucking come.

JIMMY
Get in the back.

Lump gives a triumphant smile. Jimmy scoots around to the driver's side door. Dan pushes Lump into the backseat.

DAN
Why do I have the feeling this is going to be epic?

I/E. CAR - NIGHT

Dan is tapping a tune on the dashboard. Jimmy fiddles with the shifter knob. He turns the key and starts the car. He tries to back out but the car stalls.

DAN
Get a move on.

JIMMY
I'm shitty at stick.

DAN
How the hell do you have your learner's permit?

LUMP
You've seen Dad do it a thousand times.

JIMMY
Gimme a fucking second.

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DAN
Sammy is rolling in his coffin right now.

Jimmy grabs the stick. Nothing. Jimmy presses the clutch and the car pops into neutral. They coast into the street. He turns the key and the engine SPUTTERS.

DAN (CONT'D)
(singing)
We're going to a funeral home, oh yeah, bringing a jersey, uh huh --

Dan sings LOUDER.

DAN (CONT'D)
We're doing it because our friend's dead, la la la.

The car lurches forward. Dan bangs his head on the dash.

DAN (CONT'D)
ASSHOLE.

JIMMY
I'm new at this.

I/E. CAR - NIGHT

They car pulls up to Sammy's house COUGHING. Gears GRIND as they stop.

Jimmy grits his teeth.

DAN
Wake the fucking neighborhood while you're at it.

EXT. SAMMY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The guys skulk across the lawn. They press themselves against the outer shrubbery. Jimmy points at a second story window.

JIMMY
That's Sammy's.

Dan points to one a few feet down from it.

DAN
That one?

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JIMMY
Kate's.

DAN
Climb through it often, Romeo?

Jimmy clutches at the siding of the house.

DAN (CONT'D)
How do we do it?

JIMMY
She dropped me her sheets.

DAN
Then her panties.

LUMP
Pyramid?

EXT. SAMMY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Dan is on all fours, Jimmy has Lump on his shoulders. Jimmy steps onto Dan's back. No grace or balance. Lump tries to brace himself on the side of the house. He reaches and grabs the window sill.

The weight is too much. Jimmy loses what little balance he had and topples. THUD. Dan gets a face full of Jimmy. Lump hangs from the sill.

DAN
Pull yourself up.

JIMMY
C'mon.

DAN
Do it for me.

JIMMY
Do it for Sammy.

Lump strains. His tiny arms lift his body but can't hold it any longer and falls into a shrub.

DAN
Fail.

They regroup. Their breath is illuminated by moonlight.

DAN (CONT'D)
Plan B. We stand on Lump.

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JIMMY
I have a better idea.

EXT. SAMMY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Dan and Jimmy push the car across Sammy's lawn under the window. Lump steers.

They climb on top of the Coupe.

Dan tries the window. It slides a few inches and sticks. He shoves with all his might but gets nowhere. Jimmy gives him a hand but even a combined effort yields nothing.

DAN
It's fucking stuck.

EXT. SAMMY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jimmy cranks the window up with the tire jack. He's straining. It's almost big enough for a human to slide through.

POP. The window glass shatters all over the guys.

JIMMY
Shit.

DAN
We'll fit now.

JIMMY
Wait with the car.

INT. SAMMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jimmy fumbles in the dark. He turns on a bedside lamp. The yellow glow casts three shadows on the wall. Jimmy turns to see Dan and Lump.

DAN
I'm not waiting outside.

LUMP
I don't like being alone.

JIMMY
I didn't put the parking brake on.

DAN
Is that bad?

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They run back to the window and see the car rolling down the slope of Sammy's yard toward the street.

JIMMY
Fuck.

EXT. SAMMY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The guys fall from the window with THUDS and chase down the slow rolling car. It DINKS into a small tree at the end of the block. Stopping its low speed chase. The guys pant, out of breath.

They pull the car back from the tree. There is a dent in the hood.

JIMMY
Fuck.

LUMP
Can we fix *that* at Home Depot?

JIMMY
Maybe they won't notice?

DAN
We've got bigger bodies to fry.

EXT. SAMMY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The guys roll the car back up Sammy's lawn and under the window.

I/E. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy YANKS the E-Brake.

JIMMY
Let's roll.

INT. SAMMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

They rummage through boxes. Nothing. Dan knocks over a stack. He's causing a ruckus.

JIMMY
Keep it down.

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DAN
We crashed a car into a tree and no one woke up, knocking over a box isn't doing shit.

JIMMY
Be careful.

DAN
We wouldn't even be here if you just let me use the McNabb jersey.

CREAK. Sammy's door opens wide. They are deer in headlights. No one moves. They don't even breathe.

Kate stands before them. She's in plaid pajamas. She is hesitant but enters the room, closing the door behind her. Glass crunches beneath her slipper'd feet.

KATE
Did you break the fucking window?

DAN
It was like that when we found it.

JIMMY
We're looking for the Dawkins jersey.

KATE
Someone already took it.

DAN
Of course.

JIMMY
Do you know who?

Dan flops on Sammy's bed.

KATE
GET OFF.

Dan pops up.

DAN
Touchy touchy.
(beat)
Did Sammy have any other jerseys?

KATE
Tons.

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DAN
Second favorite?

KATE
McNabb.

Dan throws his arms in the air.

JIMMY
No one's getting cremated in their second favorite jersey.

KATE
You broke in here for my brother's jersey?

DAN
Gotta move before things get too stiff.

JIMMY
We can buy one.

DAN
What's open this time of night?

KATE
You're putting him in the jersey?

Jimmy shifts in his shoes.

JIMMY
It'll be really quick. We'll slip it on him before anyone notices.

DAN
This bitch doesn't have anything for us. We need to bail ASAP.

JIMMY
(to Dan)
Don't call her a bitch, asshole.

DAN
Don't call me an asshole, twat.

KATE
(Hushed)
You'll wake my parents.

DAN
If we haven't woken them already I'd say we're safe.

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JIMMY
Let’s hit the sporting goods store on High Street.

The guys turn to leave. Kate lets go a SIGH of indignation. She undoes the buttons to her top.

Their eyes go wide. Kate is wearing the Dawkins jersey under her top.

KATE
Figured if I didn’t take it some asshole would. Guess I was right.

JIMMY
Good thinking.

The words are barely out before Dan makes a move for her sleeve.

DAN
Give it.

KATE
Fuck off.

Jimmy takes one look from Dan to Kate and sees things heading south. He takes Kate’s arm and pulls her into a corner. Lump and Dan lean on a far wall.

JIMMY
The case was locked.

KATE
He taped the key to the side of my stuffed animal. It took me a few days to figure out what it fit.

JIMMY
The will was in a Playboy.

KATE
The will I’m not in.

JIMMY
It’s not about who’s in it.

LUMP
Dan’s not in the will.

DAN
He knew I’d be here.

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KATE
(to Dan)
Why are *you* here?

DAN
Cause Sammy wasn't sure if he and Jimmy would start talking again after he found out you two had hooked up.

Dead silence. Lump's jaw drops. Kate blushes. Jimmy won't let him win this one. Dan won't stop trying.

KATE
He knew?

DAN
Your bedroom was right next door.

JIMMY
He saw me climb in the window.

KATE
He never said anything to me about it.

DAN
How do you tell your sister you know your buddy is slipping her the salami?

JIMMY
ENOUGH.
(beat)
Sammy would have been there for me. I have to be there for him now.

DAN
You could have been there for him a week ago and not with his sister.

JIMMY
Fuck you.

DAN
Just saying.

JIMMY
We need that jersey.

KATE
You want me to give up the last piece of my dead brother?

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JIMMY
I don't want you to give up anything. Sammy does.

KATE
He didn't leave me anything else.

JIMMY
He left us a mission. One he wants us to do together. That's why I'm here, that's why Dan's here.

Jimmy turns his back. He begins to walk away.

KATE
Where are you going?

Jimmy is at the window. Kate follows. Dan and Lump stand triumphant. Jimmy turns and holds out his hand.

JIMMY
You're not coming?

KATE
I don't know if I can --

JIMMY
Then we gotta have the jersey.

DAN
Take it off, baby.

Jimmy hits Dan with an elbow.

KATE
Turn around.

The guys spin and face the outside. They'll play gentleman for a price.

Kate takes the jersey off. Dan nudges Lump. They look at her reflection in the mirror on the wall. Lump smiles and Dan giggles. They see her in her bra.

Jimmy hip-checks Dan into Lump. They turn. Kate is back in her top. She hands the jersey to Jimmy.

DAN
I was okay with you in your bra.

KATE
Can I still come?

Jimmy grins ear to ear.

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INT. SAMMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

A SHADOW takes up the entire window. From the viewpoint it spies the car pulling away from the house.

SUSAN (O.S.)
What's going on?

The shadow steps back revealing Ted's grim face in the moonlight.

TED
Do you know where I left my keys?

SUSAN
You're going out?

TED
I need some air.

I/E. CAR - NIGHT

Kate is up front. Dan and Lump in the back. Jimmy coasts down the residential road.

They pass the tree they demolished.

KATE
What happened to our tree?

Jimmy presses the accelerator and they disappear down the block.

JIMMY
Let's not talk about it.

EXT. MCDONOUGH FUNERAL HOME - NIGHT

A broad brick building sits alone surrounded by trees. Lights on inside. The car coasts to a halt on the street. The gang gets out.

Jimmy leads the way across the grass toward the side of the building.

JIMMY
Quick in and out.

DAN
That's my specialty.

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KATE
What's the plan?

DAN
We'll break a window.

KATE
And set off an alarm?

DAN
Who made you commander and chief?

KATE
I'm not taking orders from you, Captain Douchebag.

JIMMY
The lights are on. Someone's inside.

Jimmy strains to peer through a raised window.

Kate touches Jimmy's shoulders. He is startled.

KATE
Relax champ.
(beat)
Gimme a boost. I'll peek inside.

Jimmy props Kate up in the air. His hand on her butt. Dan and Lump look on with jealousy.

Kate peers through the window.

KATE (CONT'D)
I don't see anyone.

DAN
This is a waste of time.

Jimmy lowers Kate. He moves farther down the building toward a basement window. The gang follows. Jimmy bends in the dirt. Kate and Lump lower themselves to his level.

They peer in a tiny basement window. It's dim but they can make out a room highlighted by stainless steel.

JIMMY
No one's inside. I think we can --

Before Jimmy can finish Dan swings his leg between them and into the window. THUD. Jimmy and Kate careen backward to avoid impact.

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JIMMY (CONT'D)
Jesus Christ!

Dan hops around on one foot. Jimmy helps Kate back up to a kneeling position. The fall knocked her hair out of position.

DAN
Shit, that hurt.

JIMMY
(sotto)
Give us some help on this one, Sammy.

Kate fixes her hair. A piece hits Jimmy in the face and he turns to watch her. She has a hair pin in her teeth as she makes a pony tail.

Jimmy reaches out and snatches the pin from her lips.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Can I borrow this?

Jimmy snaps the pin in half. He lets the pointy ends stick out form his fist like Wolverine from X-Men. Jimmy winds up.

SMASH. The glass spiders. He doesn't take the time to look back for approval but if he did, the look on Kate's face would've made him very happy.

Jimmy kicks the window the rest of the way in. Glass tinkles as it hits the floor inside.

LUMP
No alarm.

JIMMY
Spot me.

Dan grasps Jimmy's outstretched arms and lowers him into the abyss.

INT. MCDONOUGH FUNERAL HOME - PREP ROOM - NIGHT

All gurneys and tools. On the back wall is a giant walk in freezer. A place as dead as it's inhabitants.

Dan falls into the room last. Jimmy strides with purpose to the freezer. They follow. He pulls open the door.

JIMMY
In and out.

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Three plywood boxes on rolling gurney's. They look like unpainted coffins. Jimmy is pulling the first before anyone can react.

Jimmy slides the first's lid back.

ELDERLY MAN. He's all white hair and wrinkles. Completely in the nude and stiff as a board. Dan pokes him with a finger.

DAN
He's dead.

The lid is replaced.

DAN (CONT'D)
I wasn't done looking.

Jimmy doesn't have time for this. He is yanking the lid off another box out.

ELDERLY WOMAN. Same as before, nude and cold.

DAN (CONT'D)
Not the rack I wanted to see tonight.

Kate shakes her head and moves away from Dan.

DAN (CONT'D)
Being honest.

Jimmy puts the lid back on and grasps the last box. Moment of truth.

Kate grabs his arm. She points to the base of the box. There's a name on the bottom, "Harlow."

Jimmy pulls the box from the fridge. They crowd around. He doesn't have a sense for the dramatic but still pauses as his fingers grace the lid. He knows Sammy is inside.

JIMMY
(to Kate)
Ready?

DAN
WAIT.

Dan clamps his hands on the lid. For someone eager to open the coffin at the funeral he's not on board with the reveal now.

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DAN (CONT'D)
I came here to slip an Eagles jersey on my dead friend not to see his penis.

KATE
Grow up.

Dan takes his hands off.

Jimmy gently slides the lid back, revealing Sammy's feet.

DAN
He's naked. He's fucking naked. They're cremating our friend in the nude. Harsh.

Jimmy undoes his belt. Dan and Kate fight without noticing what Jimmy is doing. Jimmy unbuttons his pants. He begins to shimmy out of them.

KATE
(to Dan)
If you're so upset by it then give him your pants.

DAN
I'm six inches taller than Sammy. He'll look like a clown in heaven. Take Lump's. He's dead kid size.

JIMMY
He'll wear mine.

Jimmy holds his pants up in the air. He's wearing briefs.

DAN
You need some boxers. Let the boys loose.

KATE
You'll be cold.

JIMMY
He needs them.

Kate takes the pants. Jimmy slides the lid completely off. They gaze at what was once their friend.

SAMMY HARLOW, 16. Pale, more skeleton than skin. His expression is artificial. Hands crossed on his chest; a naked stick figure. It's the shell that used to hold the boy they knew so well. Now it's empty.

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Everyone takes a moment to breathe. Everyone but Jimmy. He takes the pants from Kate and struggles to work them onto the body.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
(amidst grunts)
We shouldn't see him like this.

KATE
No one has.

Kate brushes Sammy's hair from his forehead. Jimmy has the pants on and belted.

KATE (CONT'D)
Some bullshit about wanting everyone to remember him alive.

DAN
It doesn't even look like him.

Lump offers the jersey. Jimmy bends over his friend. Dan helps lift Sammy's back. They try to move his arms from their position on his chest but they won't budge.

They struggle.

JIMMY
Try slipping it over his head first.

DAN
It'd be easier with him standing.

Sammy is an easy lift. The guys have him out in seconds. Lump holds him up while they struggle. Even Kate is yanking. Nothing.

A loud CREAK. FOOTSTEPS.

The Gang freezes.

VOICE (O.S.)
WHO'S THERE?

Sammy is propped against Jimmy. Jimmy pushes Sammy's cheek off his own. Shudders.

DAN
What the fuck?

JIMMY
Hide.

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They scramble.

Kate squeezes behind a curtain. Lump pushes in with her. Dan climbs into an empty coffin on the far wall.

Jimmy has Sammy in his arms. He is alone. He leans Sammy on the table. Jimmy rushes to put the lid back on Sammy's box.

The footsteps are coming closer.

Jimmy grabs Sammy's body and drags it inside the freezer. He closes the door behind him. Just in time.

Enter MORTICIAN (50's). He walks around the room flipping switches. A panel on the far wall hums to life.

Mortician walks to the row of boxes. Scratches his head. He pulls the first gurney toward a furnace on the far wall.

INT. FREEZER

Jimmy holds Sammy against him. They are eye to eye. Silence.

JIMMY
We got your note.

He gives a faint smile.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Still not talking to me?

Jimmy adjusts Sammy's head so it faces him. Jimmy stares directly at Sammy. There's no eye contact. There's no eyes. Jimmy's maneuver reveals small stitching under Sammy's eyes. They are sewn shut.

Jimmy peers through the freezer window. He shivers as he watches the Mortician work.

INT. MCDONOUGH FUNERAL HOME - PREP ROOM

The Mortician grabs the box belonging to Sammy. He is working fast, without care. The Mortician lines up the three boxes and opens three oven doors. He pushes each into it's own furnace and closes the doors.

WHIRRRRRRR.

The furnaces startup. Fire can be seen through the tiny window.

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INT. FREEZER

Jimmy looks on in horror as the boxes burn.

INT. MCDONOUGH FUNERAL HOME - PREP ROOM - LATER

The Mortician runs his hand over the table with the broken glass.

MORTICIAN
What the hell?

He stares at the broken window.

MORTICIAN (CONT'D)
Goddamnit!

The Mortician exits. They wait until his footsteps disappear. Kate and Lump come out of hiding. The momentary silence is broken by the likely source.

DAN (O.S.)
I could get used to this.

The lid of a coffin opens. Dan props himself on his elbows inside the cushy tomb.

The freezer door swings open. Jimmy and Sammy come out.

JIMMY
We've got to get him out of here, now!

DAN
Who?

Jimmy yanks Sammy's arms and thrusts the jersey on. He readjusts his grip on the corpse.

LUMP
Maybe we can put him in another coffin?

KATE
He's not getting his ashes switched with some random schmuck.

Jimmy tucks Sammy under his arm and walks to the window. They all stare. Jimmy has a new grip on Sammy and the situation. He gets up on one to the tables.

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JIMMY
(to Lump)
Gimme a hand?

Lump lifts Sammy's legs. Dan and Kate finally realize what's going on.

DAN
What the fuck are you doing?

JIMMY
He didn't want to be cremated. Now we can do what he wanted. The jersey, the burial.

KATE
Are you fucking serious?

Jimmy looks down on his followers.

JIMMY
Sammy's dead. We can't change that but we can do what he wanted . . .

DAN
I'm down.

KATE
You're entertaining this?

JIMMY
We gotta get him outta here.

Dan is on the table. He grabs Sammy's feet a lifts the body toward the window.

KATE
Everyone just wait one fucking minute.

They stop.

KATE (CONT'D)
No one else thinks this is crazy?

Lump helps Jimmy and Dan. They work the body into the air and poke his head out the window.

KATE (CONT'D)
We can't do this . . .

JIMMY
We have to.

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Kate watches as they move the body. Jimmy jumps down next to her.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Sammy was our best friend.

DAN
Our shovel buddy.

JIMMY
We promised him that no matter what happened we'd cover his ass. We gotta do what we gotta do.

Jimmy doesn't wait for her reaction. He's not waiting for anything anymore. Dan and Lump have Sammy through the window. Jimmy extends his hand to Kate. She thinks a second before grasping it.

EXT. MCDONOUGH FUNERAL HOME - NIGHT

Jimmy and Kate carry Sammy down the driveway. Lump and Dan run ahead to the car. SIRENS echoes in the distance.

JIMMY
Hurry.

Dan pops the trunk.

Jimmy and Kate arrive with the body. Lump has the passenger door open.

Kate and Jimmy lower Sammy into the trunk. His legs extend over the trunk. They try to turn his body but to no avail.

DAN
Fold him?

Jimmy shifts Sammy's body. THWAP. He bonks Sammy's head against the trunk.

DAN (CONT'D)
Smooth.

KATE
Get him in the fucking car.

The sirens are closer.

They try to twist the body but the pants get stuck on the trunk and rip.

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JIMMY
Damnit.

KATE
Do the seats go down?

JIMMY
We're going to have to put him in the back.

DAN
Look I know he and I were close in life but --

I/E. CAR - NIGHT

Jimmy in the front, Kate next to him. In the back Sammy sits in between Lump and Dan. Lump presses against the window, as far away from Sammy as possible. Dan does the same.

Tires SQUEAL. They head down the road. Behind them a patrol car pulls into the drive. It is followed closely by a second vehicle.

EXT. MCDONOUGH FUNERAL HOME - NIGHT

A cop car rolls up the drive. Standing outside is the Mortician next to another uniformed OFFICER (20's). The car parks and Ted steps out. He's in civilian clothes.

Ted nods to the other officer who stops his interview and approaches.

TED
Officer.

OFFICER
A broken window. Nothing's --

Before he can finish the Mortician rushes over.

MORTICIAN
Chief Harlow!
(beat)
I told you the preparations wouldn't be ready until morning.

Ted focuses on the ground.

TED
Couldn't sleep.

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OFFICER
Sir, I forgot. My condolences.

TED
(to Mortician)
Any chance I could say one last goodbye?

MORTICIAN
I'm sorry, he's already been loaded into the chamber.

Ted climbs back into his car.

OFFICER
About the broken window --

Ted reluctantly turns to the Officer.

TED
Nothing stolen? Nothing askew?

OFFICER
Nope.

TED
(smiling)
Probably kids.

EXT. HARDWARE STORE - NIGHT

The car carrying our gang pulls into a space and parks. They climb out.

Jimmy goes up to the front window. It's a display with mannequins holding shovels and posing with tools.

KATE
What are we --

JIMMY
Your brother wanted to be buried. We'll need shovels.

DAN
Way in?

JIMMY
We're on a roll with the windows.

Their eyes search the lot. Dan spies a cinderblock.

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EXT. HARDWARE STORE - LATER

Jimmy and Dan each hold a side of the block and HURL.

The glass trembles. No damage.

DAN
What now?

Jimmy doesn't wait. He lifts the block again. Throws. Nothing.

DAN (CONT'D)
We're going to need a bigger block.

Jimmy tosses the car keys to Dan.

JIMMY
You wanna to drive?

EXT. HARDWARE STORE - LATER

Dan backs the car toward the window. Kate and Lump watch.

Jimmy beckons like an air traffic controller.

JIMMY
A little gas.

VROOM. The car rockets back. Jimmy dodges. SMASH. The window shatters.

WOOOOOP WOOOOOOOOP WOOOOOOOOOOOP.

KATE
ALARM!

DAN
Holy shit.

Jimmy grabs the two display shovels from the rubble. He snags a pickaxe for good measure.

There is a huge dent in the rear bumper of the car. Lump gestures to it but there is no time. Kate shoves him in the car. Dan follows. Jimmy is behind the wheel before anyone takes a breath.

I/E. CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

LUMP
Dad is going to kill you.

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JIMMY
You'll get two funerals in one week.

The ragged automobile flies down the highway with the rear bumper hanging. The shovels and pickaxe droop out as well. Other DRIVERS on the road throw them odd glances as they pass.

Dan positions Sammy's face on the window. Some motorists see the face and speed past.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Knock it off.

DAN
I'm trying to make his last hours fun ones.

Jimmy takes an exit.

JIMMY
We're almost there.

I/E. TED'S CRUISER

Ted sits in silence as he drives down the highway. His police radio crackles.

RADIO (V.O.)
Break-in at the Parkway Hardware.
(beat)
Witnesses say a group of kids responsible.

Ted reaches for the radio.

TED
(into radio)
Say again. Over.

Ted flips on his lights and speeds up.

EXT. HARDWARE STORE - NIGHT

Ted stands amidst the broken glass with the same Officer from earlier. A MAN rifles through the wreckage.

TED
One more time.

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MAN
Two shovels, a pickaxe --
(beat)
The entire display!

TED
This place got a camera?

MAN
I can barely afford the alarm.

OFFICER
Looks like it did it's job.

MAN
I'm lucky insurance's got the window.

TED
Who saw the kids?

The Officer gestures to a middle-aged WOMAN, hair in curlers, sitting on the concrete walk a few yards down. Ted walks down to her and kneels to her level.

TED (CONT'D)
Ma'am.

WOMAN
(off Ted's relaxed dress)
You a cop?

TED
What did you see?

WOMAN
I done told the other officer already.

TED
Mind telling me?

WOMAN
Kids. Five of them.

TED
You mean four?

WOMAN
Four boys, one girl. That still makes five, no?

Ted stands.

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TED
(sotto)
Jesus Christ.

EXT. HILL - NIGHT

The hill from the opening. The gang stands in a circle. Sammy lies on his back in the middle of them.

KATE
He looks like he's sleeping. It's peaceful.

DAN
It's too bad we can't keep him around. Stuff him. Trade him every weekend.

They take the city in for a moment.

JIMMY
It's the perfect view.
(beat)
Right across from the new stadium.

They turn and wield their shovels.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Should we say something?

DAN
Sammy was alive. Now he's dead. We took his body. We're going to bury it on the side of a hill.

KATE
How about "life's not fair?"

JIMMY
Forget it.

DAN
Six feet down?

They press the tools to the dirt. They push with all their might. The blades barely scratch the surface.

Jimmy drops his shovel and grabs the pick axe. He uses all his strength and swings down.

CRACK. The head of the axe breaks off.

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JIMMY
Fuck.

Back to the shovel. Jimmy uses his weight. The ground is frozen solid. He climbs on one side and Dan on the other. They jump in the air. Nothing. The shovel glances off the frozen soil. Everyone's heart sinks.

KATE
We didn't think this through.

Jimmy puts his hand on her shoulder.

KATE (CONT'D)
If you say "everything is going to be okay" I'm going to kick you in the balls.

JIMMY
We got him in the jersey.

DAN
That was supposed to be the hard part.

JIMMY
We have to bury him.

DAN
The ground's FROZEN.

KATE
You couldn't leave well enough alone.

Jimmy grabs Sammy's body and points toward the city.

JIMMY
Here ya go Sammy, Philadelphia. Pick a place.

Jimmy stares wildly at the body. The others watch him in the moonlight. They shiver from both cold and fear.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Where do you want to be for the rest of your . . . whatever?
(beat)
You remembered where all your porn, booze, and weed was but forgot to leave a motherfucking burial plot.
(beat)
Well? Where?

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Silence. Jimmy let's Sammy's body slump against him.

Kate comes to Jimmy's side. She puts her arm out and hugs Jimmy. The steam from their breath combines.

KATE
Everything's gonna be okay.

Jimmy cannot help but smile at that one. Dan and Lump join them.

JIMMY
Why didn't he just tell your parents what he wanted?

KATE
Because Sammy knew you were the only one who'd do anything he asked.

DAN
He asked him to keep his hands off you and that didn't work out real well.

KATE
Fuck off.

JIMMY
He's right.
(beat)
I've done a pretty good job at fucking up so far.

They look back at the city.

KATE
The skyline is beautiful at night.

DAN
It looks different without the Vet.

JIMMY
Cleaner.

KATE
Sammy was always too sick to go to football games.

DAN
The Vet was the shit. Seventy thousand people cursing at the top of their lungs. Spilling beers, punching people.

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LUMP
One time, I got thrown up on.

Jimmy looks deep into Sammy's closed eyes. He fixes the askew jersey.

DAN
They're digging a new stadium down there.

JIMMY
Plenty of loose dirt.

Jimmy huffs the body onto his shoulder. Smiles cross the faces of the crew.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
He'll be there. Cursing and cheering with the rest of them.

DAN
What the fuck are we waiting for?

They rush down the hillside.

I/E. TED'S CRUISER - NIGHT

Ted turns the speaker on his radio up.

TED
(into radio)
Any reports on our band of misfits?

RADIO (V.O.)
Negative.

TED
Keep me updated.

RADIO (V.O.)
You on patrol, Harlow?

TED
Something like that.

I/E. CAR - NIGHT

There is nothing inconspicuous about this operation. The car is a giant warning flag to all onlookers; shovels stick out of the trunk, the undercarriage sags and jerks every so often from the shifting.

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Jimmy steers down a main drag. He's doing the speed limit and nothing above. That's not enough for some passengers.

DAN
I wish you'd use the gas pedal.

JIMMY
Only ten miles away.

DAN
We should have recruited my Grandmother to drive.

Jimmy presses the gas pedal. He's not happy about it. The streets whiz past.

LUMP
Maybe he doesn't know if he can go that fast.

JIMMY
I can go as fast as I want.

DAN
So you WANT to go twelve miles an hour?

Jimmy blushes. Kate shifts in her seat. He presses the pedal harder.

He passes a Speed Limit sign. It reads 45. He's doing 60. No one tells him how fast to drive. No one but --

KATE
Maybe you should slow down.

DAN
We need to get there while it's still dark. No one's out at this time of night anyway.

Jimmy lets off the pedal.

Dan rolls a back window down and sticks his head out.

DAN (CONT'D)
YAHOOO!

JIMMY
Get your fucking head back in here.

Dan pulls his head in but he's not done. He grabs Sammy's body and shifts it to his lap. He adjusts the window and goes to push Sammy's head out.

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DAN
Here ya go Sammy, get some fresh air.

Jimmy leans from the front seat and grabs Dan.

JIMMY
No.

Jimmy's hand goes to the window lever. He closes the window and places the child lock on. Dan unbuckles his seat belt. He's done with letting Jimmy be in control.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
What the hell are you doing?

DAN
If you're going to be a pussy about it I'm going to drive.

Dan is out of the back seat and trying to take the wheel from Jimmy. The car swerves as Dan attempts to get in Jimmy's lap.

KATE
What the fuck?

Lump grabs Dan's torso and pulls back. Dan steps on Jimmy's right leg, pushing the gas down. The car lurches forward.

He hasn't been shifting consistent so the engine revs off the charts. Dan applies all the pressure he can on Jimmy's leg. Jimmy can only handle the wheel. They're doing 85 in third gear.

Jimmy shifts and they lurch forward.

DAN
I've got a need, A NEED FOR SPEED!

JIMMY
Fucking stop!

WHOOP WHOOP.

A police siren turns their heads. The red and blue lights swirl behind them. Dan retreats into the backseat. Jimmy doesn't have time to scold him. Bigger problems just pulled behind.

Jimmy turns the car toward the side of the road. He holds his head in his hands.

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KATE
Fuck.

DAN
Let me handle this.

Sweat pours off Jimmy's forehead. He adjusts his mirror. He isn't looking for the Cop. He's looking for Sammy.

A RAP on the window brings him back to reality. Jimmy rolls the window down. COP, 40's, moustached, has long night written on his face.

JIMMY
Officer.

COP
Do you know why I'm pulling you over, son?

DAN
He was going eighty miles an hour.

COP
You got a little swervy back there.

DAN
He's a terrible driver.

The Cop shines his flashlight in the car. Jimmy and Kate shoot glares at Dan.

DAN (CONT'D)
I'm being honest.

The Cop shines it toward the trunk. He contemplates the shovels. He grabs his chest radio and checks in.

COP
(into radio)
Traffic stop. Four boys and a girl.

The radio crackles. A familiar voice.

TED (V.O.)
Eagles jersey?

COP
10-4, Ted.

TED (V.O.)
Hold them.

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The Cop approaches the driver's side window again.

COP
You have a good reason why you're out at two in the morning with a car full of minors and a trunk full of shovels?

DAN
We're burying a dead body at the new Eagles stadium.

The Cop has had enough. He points a determined finger toward Dan's face.

COP
(to Dan)
I'm not asking you.

JIMMY
We're taking our friend home.

The Cop directs his light on Sammy's face.

COP
The sleeper?

They all freeze.

COP (CONT'D)
Wake him up.

JIMMY
(gulps)
Huh?

COP
I said, wake him up.

Jimmy turns to the back seat. He shakes Sammy's knees. Nothing. He looks to Dan. Dan's face is blank. Jimmy nods his head toward Sammy. Dan shakes Sammy's knees. Nothing. He gives a few gentle pats on Sammy's cheeks. Nothing. Jimmy and Kate's pleading faces are willing Sammy to wake. Lump cowers.

JIMMY
He's not waking up.

DAN
He's never going to wake up.

The Cop stands. He takes a deep breath. Tonight, really? He gathers himself and bends back down.

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Kate's time to shine. She takes off her tiny cardigan and begins to undo top buttons. Jimmy's shoulders sink.

JIMMY
(whispers)
I got this.

DAN
Let her do what she's good at.

JIMMY
Fuck you.

Kate's top four buttons are gone exposing skin and the hint of lace. Her bust protrudes.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
(to Kate)
Don't do this.

KATE
Got a better idea?

The Cop lowers himself back down to the drivers side window.

KATE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry officer. He's just really tired.

The Cop notices Kate. He brushes his thinning hair back. Kate leans over Jimmy to speak with the officer.

COP
Nice PJ's. Tired?

KATE
So tired.

Kate gives her best school girl smile.

COP
I've got two daughters your age. They try it all the time dear. Button up.

Kate leans back, defeated.

COP (CONT'D)
(to Jimmy)
License and registration, son.

DAN
For swerving? That's bullshit.

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The Cop has had enough.

COP
You just earned you and your friends a sobriety test.
(beat)
Everybody out of the car.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

The gang stands in a row next to the car. Jimmy props Sammy up.

The officer has his Breathalyzer out. He's going one by one down the line starting with Lump.

COP
Blow into the tube, son.

DAN
He's twelve.

COP
Worry about getting the guy next to you to wake up.

Dan looks to Jimmy. Jimmy moves Sammy forward in line next to Kate.

Cop moves from Lump to Dan. Jimmy's grip tightens on Sammy.

DAN
When's the last time you had that thing calibrated?

COP
Blow or I'm taking you back to the station.

Dan obliges.

JIMMY
Officer, we're not drunk. We're lost.

He's done with Dan. Kate shifts her top so it hangs off her shoulder.

KATE
Isn't there anything I can do to make this go away?

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The Cop has had enough. He bypasses Jimmy and shines the light into Kate's face.

COP
Young lady, you got a daddy somewhere and I sure as hell don't want to have to call him tonight.

The Cop moves the light to Sammy's face. He reaches out and pats Sammy's cheek. He shines the light closer. He lifts his finger and touches Sammy's eyelids. They won't raise. He leans in and notices the stitching.

COP (CONT'D)
Holy Mary mother of God . . .

WHACK.

The Cop falls to his knees. Behind him Dan stands wielding a shovel. The Cop rubs his head.

COP (CONT'D)
Jesus Christ. What the hell kid?

TED (V.O.)
(from the radio)
I'm a mile away, hold them.

The Cop stands back up and grabs the shovel from the quivering Dan.

TED (V.O.)
Hello?
(beat)
Hello?

COP
My fucking head. What the fuck are you doing with your --

WHACK.

Second time's the charm. The Cop lies on the side of the road out cold. Jimmy has the other shovel.

KATE
You assaulted a police officer!

JIMMY
We couldn't let him get Sammy.

Dan kneels by the cop. He takes off his handcuffs and locks the cop's hands behind his back. Dan removes the cop's belt as well. He tosses it in the front seat of the car.

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KATE
What are we going to do with the body?

DAN
Which one?

JIMMY
Got his keys?

Jimmy leans Sammy on the car. Dan tosses him the Cop's keys from the belt and Jimmy heads toward the squad car. He leans in the door and pops the trooper's trunk.

I/E. CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

Jimmy floors the gas pedal.

Ted's Cruiser pulls onto the block. He throws on his police lights.

Jimmy ignores, weaving down the street.

LUMP
We are so dead.

JIMMY
(to Lump)
You wanted to come, man the fuck up.

KATE
Take it easy on him.

They pull away from the squad car, tires squealing.

I/E. TED'S CRUISER

Ted jams his accelerator. His radio crackles.

TED
(into Radio)
This is Chief Ted Harlow I need a rescue car on Broad for an assault on an Officer.

RADIO (V.O.)
Copy that. Anyone seriously injured?

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TED
(sotto)
Not yet.

I/E. CAR - NIGHT

Jimmy sweats. Katie holds on for dear life. Lump, Dan and Sammy bounce in the backseat.

KATE
We're fucked.

DAN
I feel like O.J.

LUMP
Where are we?

DAN
Go left!

EXT. NORTH PHILADELPHIA - NIGHT

The gang's car hauls ass up the boulevard. Ted in hot pursuit.

They make a sharp turn, SCREECHING tires. Ted is forced to backtrack.

I/E. CAR - CONTINUOUS

DAN
Go right!

KATE
Are you sure you know where you're taking us?

The further they go the less attractive the neighborhood becomes.

DAN
Fucking floor it!

Jimmy obliges.

DAN (CONT'D)
Left again.

They turn down a back alley. Jimmy shuts his lights off. Ted's cruiser flies past them, unnoticed.

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I/E. TED'S CRUISER

Ted's eyes scan the road, nothing.

TED
Fuck!

I/E. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy turns onto a main road and flips his lights back on. It's the ghetto. The homes are abandoned, the liquor stores are still open, and trash can fires no longer seem out of place.

The car is racing toward a red light a few hundred yards down the road. Only Lump is looking at the road.

JIMMY
Does anyone know where we are?

DAN
We're safe.

KATE
(off the neighborhood)
Define safe.

LUMP
Guys.

JIMMY
You really fucked us, Dan.

DAN
You fucked us dragging Sammy out of his coffin.

JIMMY
Leave Sammy out of this.

KATE
Don't say my brother's name.

LUMP
Guys!

DAN
You're jealous because he left us a mission and he left you the key to something he didn't even want you to have.

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JIMMY
Shut the fuck up, Dan.

DAN
You're the one who took us on this retarded quest to put the jersey on someone you call your best friend but never talked to about what his last wishes because you were too busy FUCKING his sister.

JIMMY
I'm trying to do what Sammy wants!

DAN
All Sammy wanted was to be ALIVE.

Dan pushes Sammy's body at Jimmy. Jimmy takes his hands off the wheel and pushes back.

KATE
Please stop it!

LUMP
GUYS!!!

JIMMY
WHAT?

LUMP
Red light.

Jimmy refocuses on the road. He moves his hands toward the wheel but it's too late. He slams the brakes and the car swerves. They slide sideways. Four wheels become two.

The car FLIPS.

Legs and arms flail. All living passengers are buckled but Sammy goes flying out the windshield.

They roll three times and land back on the wheels.

I/E. TED'S CRUISER - NIGHT

Ted pulls up next to the locked cruiser from before. Two other COPS (TALL and STUBBY) stand beside it. The COP who was in the trunk sits on the sidewalk and holds his head. Ted steps from his car.

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EXT. STREET - NIGHT

All three Cops look at Ted.

TED
Gentleman.

They straighten their backs.

TED (CONT'D)
(to Cop)
How's your head?

STUBBY
They hit him with a shovel!

Tall nudges Stubby who clams up.

COP
They hit me with a shovel.

TED
Big guys?

All three look back and forth from one to the other.

COP
Kids.

TED
Kids.

COP
Kids.
(an excuse)
There were a lot of them.

Ted takes his flashlight out and shines it in trunk cop's eyes.

TED
You have a concussion.
(beat)
Think hard. Three boys?

COP
Four boys. One was unconscious.

TED
Description?

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COP
One was in his underpants. One was like ten, maybe? The other one was an asshole.

TED
The girl?

COP
Needed her father.

Ted grips the cops shirt.

TED
The unconscious one?

COP
Must have been wasted. Barefoot.

TED
Wearing?

COP
An Eagles jersey. Dawkins.

STUBBY
I love Dawkins.

TALL
(Crosses his arms in an X)
Weapon X.

Ted pushes the Cop away.

TED
Motherfucker.

Tall and Stubby grab their keys.

TALL
You want us to go after them, boss?

TED
This one’s mine.

STUBBY
You’re not in uniform --

Ted stares him down. Stubby is saved by the crackling of a car radio.

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RADIO (V.O.)
Car 14, Car 14, We've got reports of an accident near South Broad and Passyunk. Copy?

I/E. CAR - NIGHT

Silence befalls the deserted street. The COUGHING and SPUTTERING from the car is not from the engine but the inhabitants.

Jimmy wriggles free from the seat belt and pushes back his airbags. He glances around the car. Everyone is groggy. He helps unstrap Kate who is in a daze.

Dan helps Lump.

Jimmy kicks at his door until it pops open.

EXT. SOUTH BROAD AND PASSYUNK AVENUE - NIGHT

It's pitch black outside. The only sources of light are the pollution from the city streets. There are no natural sources at this intersection.

JIMMY
Where's Sammy?

The rest of the group exits the car. Lump cries.

KATE
(off Lump)
I think he broke his arm.

Jimmy paces. He's not listening. His eyes dart over the pavement looking for the body.

JIMMY
I saw him go through the windshield.

Lump brushes Kate's hand off her shoulder. He approaches Jimmy and tugs at him with his one good arm. Jimmy's gone white. Lump lifts his damaged wing. It hangs from his body. The wound is already swollen and purple: definitely a break.

LUMP
Please.

JIMMY
Please what?

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LUMP
My arm --

JIMMY
Don't use it unless you have to.

KATE
Jimmy --

JIMMY
He's fine! He wanted to come. He wanted to join the big leagues, here it is.
(beat)
Now where the fuck is Sammy?

Jimmy whirls to see Dan fifty yards away, hoisting a lifeless mass from the pavement. He sprints toward Dan. Kate moves to Lump's side and ushers him with her. Lump buries his head in her side.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Dan has Sammy up on his shoulders. Jimmy does not hesitate. He reaches out and tugs on Sammy's pants.

JIMMY
I got him.

DAN
What does it look like I'm doing?

JIMMY
Let me carry him.

DAN
Fuck off.

Dan begins to walk up the block.

KATE
(to Jimmy)
His arm. It's serious.

JIMMY
There's a hospital past the stadium.

LUMP
Jimmy --

KATE
We need to go now.

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JIMMY
Well we aren't.

LUMP
Jimmy, please.

JIMMY
He's fine.

KATE
You're not listening to me.

Jimmy keeps walking forward, holding Sammy's dangling leg.

KATE (CONT'D)
Stop.

The guys keep going.

KATE (CONT'D)
Fucking stop.
(peak of exasperation)
GODDAMNIT.

They turn. Kate takes a deep breath.

KATE (CONT'D)
I'm out. I'm fucking out.

JIMMY
We're almost there.

Jimmy points at the horizon. STADIUM OUTLINES are visible in the faint light.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
It's like two miles away.

KATE
I'm taking Lump to the hospital.

DAN
We don't have time for this.

JIMMY
Kate, we can do this.

KATE
You can. I know you can. He needs a doctor.

JIMMY
(to Lump)
You're fine. Right?

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Lump won't look at him.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Lump, you're fine.

KATE
He's not.

JIMMY
Let me worry about my brother.

LUMP
Fuck you.

JIMMY
What did you say?

LUMP
Fuck you. FUCK YOU!
(beat)
You're not my brother.

JIMMY
What the fuck are you talking about?

LUMP
(off Sammy)
He's your brother.

JIMMY
He needs me.

LUMP
He's dead.

JIMMY
What do you want me to do?

LUMP
You're never around. You were always with him. I hate Sammy.

JIMMY
Fuck you.

Kate steps in the middle of the fray.

KATE
No one gives a shit how hard it is for you. You think I liked having a bunch of assholes break into my house?
(beat)
(MORE)

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KATE (CONT'D)
You think I like being blackmailed into giving you my jersey? You think I like spending the night with MY DEAD BROTHER?

Kate cries. Jimmy tries to hold her but she isn't having any of it.

KATE (CONT'D)
Don't touch me.

JIMMY
I'm trying my best to --

KATE
News flash. Sammy's dead. My brother is dead.
(beat)
Your brother is alive. So FUCK YOU.

JIMMY
Fuck me? All I wanted was to be sixteen and to have a girlfriend and YOUR BROTHER had to go get Leukemia and fucking die.
(beat)
I went to him and I told him I liked you. I told him I fucked you and he said no. He said I wasn't "allowed" and then his dumb ass died without ever talking to me again.

KATE
He would have come around.

JIMMY
You didn't even wait!
(beat)
Next thing I knew you were back to whoring it up around school. I know I'm not one of the popular kids but I hear things.

KATE
(crying)
What'd you hear? There were some before you and there was always going to be some after.
(beat)
YOU DIDN'T EVEN CALL ME AFTER. YOU FUCKED ME AND LEFT ME, EVEN WHEN MY BROTHER DIED.

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JIMMY
So you blew half the school?

KATE
You're such an asshole.

JIMMY
Your brother made me this way.
(beat)
Sammy always wanted everybody to know what he wasn't going to get to do so he made everyone else feel bad for not having a fucking disease. It's why he left a fucking will even AFTER your parents told him the way it had to go down.

KATE
Why do you have to follow it? If it's a fucking burden then why?

JIMMY
Because he left it to ME. Because he didn't trust me with his sister but he did with this.

KATE
Then you better get a move on. He's slipping away.

Jimmy turns to search for the body. Dan and Sammy are gone. He sprints away from them. Kate puts her arm around Lump.

KATE (CONT'D)
(to Lump)
Let's go.

They walk the opposite direction.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Jimmy sprints around the bend to the main drag. Dan is nowhere in sight.

He tears up the street. Nobody.

Jimmy doubles back. He looks back and forth.

JIMMY
DAN!

He moves the other direction. No one.

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JIMMY (CONT'D)
DAN!!!

Jimmy heads back the way they came. He's sprinting hard. He turns a corner toward the main drag and spots a figure up ahead.

It's Dan.

EXT. MAIN ROAD - NIGHT

Dan struggles to carry Sammy. He peeks over his shoulder and sees a fast approaching Jimmy.

Dan picks up the pace but it's to no avail. Jimmy tackles Dan. Sammy flops down.

JIMMY
The stadium is the other way.

DAN
Fuck the stadium.

JIMMY
We're almost there.

DAN
I'm taking him back to the funeral home.

JIMMY
We only have a few more hours before the sun comes up.

Jimmy grabs at Sammy's corpse. Dan bats his hand away.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Are we really going to do this?

DAN
You've been bossing me around for the last twelve hours.

JIMMY
You can go. Leave Sammy.

DAN
I'm taking him where he belongs.

JIMMY
He wanted to be buried.

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DAN
Sammy's dead motherfucker. What he wants doesn't matter. It doesn't fucking matter. Don't you get it?

Dan lifts Sammy and shoves him into Jimmy's arms. Jimmy should be happy about this but he holds Sammy like a discarded object.

DAN (CONT'D)
Where's Kate? Where's Lump?

Jimmy doesn't answer. He turns with Sammy to walk away. Dan won't let him go that easy. He walks behind Jimmy as he bears Sammy like his cross.

DAN (CONT'D)
Where are they? They left too huh? Fuck man, you spend half the time worrying about alive motherfuckers that you do dead motherfuckers you'd have a lot more friends. You'd probably get a lot more pussy too.

Jimmy is trying to escape Dan but he is unrelenting. Wet tears stream down Jimmy's face.

DAN (CONT'D)
Remember when we used to be friends? You, me, and Sammy. I barely can anymore. Choke on that, Dick.

Dan stops walking. He let's Jimmy get a few paces ahead.

DAN (CONT'D)
You take care of the dead kid. I'll go find the alive ones. I'll take your brother to the hospital, put my arm around your girl, and let that cop out of his trunk.
(beat)
Just like I took care of Sammy when he was alive.

SIRENS in the distance.

EXT. STREET - EARLY MORNING

The gray morning light is peaking over the buildings. Jimmy cradles his friend in his arms. His steps are belabored.

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The hint of concrete from the stadiums can be seen outlined by the early sun.

Cars casually pass the struggling boy. Jimmy cradles Sammy's face against his shoulder.

JIMMY
(to Sammy)
We gotta stay out of sight.

They turn down a side alley. It's worse for the wear; vacant lots and crumbling walls.

Jimmy readjusts his grip on the corpse. His legs are purple with cold. He hoists Sammy into a fireman's carry. His breaths are belabored but he sojourns on.

EXT. GHETTO - EARLY MORNING

It looks like a war zone. Jimmy knows these parts of cities exist but this is his first time seeing them. His eyes wander over the broken windows, boarded doors, and arrays of HOMELESS sleeping on grates.

Jimmy takes a moment and stops on a steaming grate. He lets the air wisp around his naked legs. He rubs them for warmth.

Sammy's head dangles in front of Jimmy's face. Jimmy adjusts Sammy against a crumbling wall while he warms his legs. He licks his hand and fixes Sammy's hair.

Jimmy readjusts the jersey and straightens the pants. He dusts the body with careful strokes. Jimmy uses what little T-shirt he has to wipe the dirt from Sammy's blue face.

The tandem make it to the end of the block but stop in their tracks. Jimmy is very still.

FIVE THUGS approach. They raise an eyebrow at the nearly nude white boy amongst them. The one with NECK TATTS steps forward followed by his henchman, BLACK EYE.

NECK TATTS
You lost?

JIMMY
No.

NECK TATTS
What's wrong with your friend?

The Thugs circle Jimmy. They are not menacing, just curious. Black Eye touches the back of Sammy's head.

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Jimmy whips around.

JIMMY
Don’t fucking touch him.

BLACK EYE
Relax.

JIMMY
Let me go.

NECK TATTS
You need help?

JIMMY
Fuck off.

BLACK EYE
Definitely lost.

What was once curiosity turns to righteous indignation.

NECK TATTS
What’s a little boy in his tighty whities doing downtown?

JIMMY
None of your fucking business.

NECK TATTS
You gonna let this bitch talk to you like that?

Black Eye cracks his knuckles.

JIMMY
Back off.

Jimmy presses forward. They close in on him. Jimmy spins, arms clutching Sammy to his chest.

NECK TATTS
Look at this bitch with his drunk ass friend.
(beat)
Better go back from where you came. Ain’t the time. Ain’t the place.

Jimmy pushes into Neck Tatts. He presses his face directly into Neck Tatts’s personal bubble. They are nose to nose.

JIMMY
Get out of my way or I’ll kill you too.

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Jimmy drops Sammy. He flops to the ground. Black Eye bends over and flips Sammy to his back. He feels for a pulse. Nothing. He checks for breathing. Nothing.

Jimmy folds his arms and nods.

BLACK EYE
That motherfucker is dead!

A murmur of fear spreads over the gang. Jimmy bends and picks up Sammy. He goes to push past but Neck Tatts isn't buying it.

NECK TATTS
I'm not moving boss.

JIMMY
What is this, gangland?

NECK TATTS
Watch your mouth.

Jimmy steps back. He hadn't thought of that. He begins to retreat step by step but bumps into the Thugs behind him.

The thugs move forward and grab Jimmy. They wrestle but a punch to the gut silences Jimmy. He doubles over. Black Eye hoists Sammy. Neck Tatts grabs Jimmy. He drags him to his feet.

Jimmy spits in his face.

JIMMY
Give me my fucking body.

WHACK.

Neck Tatts headbutts Jimmy. He collapses to his knees,

NECK TATTS
You like that?

Jimmy tries to stand under his own volition. Blood pours from his nose, staining his shirt and briefs.

JIMMY
It's been a real long night. Give me my friend before I have to kick your ass.

STOMP.

One of the Thugs smashes Jimmy's foot with his boot. Jimmy hobbles but lunges at Neck Tatts.

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He catches the larger man off balance and they tumble. Jimmy lands a wild punch but Neck Tatts has him pinned in seconds.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Fuck you man. Fuck you.

Blood and spit fly from Jimmy's mouth. Steam rises from his sweaty body.

BLACK EYE
Knock this bitch out. I'm calling the cops and telling them we got a psycho and a corpse.

Neck Tatts winds up for a finishing blow.

WHOOP WHOOP.

A squad car speeds down the alley.

Jimmy's head sinks.

Neck Tatts stands. He lifts Jimmy in the air with him and bends his arm behind his back.

The car's high beams are on blinding the men. It approaches fast. Faster than it should be. It's zooming and not slowing down.

BLACK EYE (CONT'D)
Oh shit!

They dive out of the way of the vehicle. Neck Tatts releases Jimmy and they dive away. Jimmy lands next to Black Eye and grabs Sammy.

Jimmy tries to run but is limping bad from the beating.

The Thugs are up and in hot pursuit. At the end of the alley the cruiser does a three point turn and barrels back their direction.

The Thugs break apart, scattering into various vacant lots and out of the way of the car. It bears down on Jimmy.

A familiar voice from the car's megaphone.

TED (O.S.)
Get in.

Jimmy turns and hides his eyes from the car's beams. He drags Sammy toward the passenger door.

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I/E. TED'S CRUISER - EARLY MORNING

Ted stares at Jimmy and Sammy. The car speeds along the road.

TED
You're a special kind of dumbass.

JIMMY
I fucked up.

TED
Big time.

Ted reaches over and looks at Sammy.

TED (CONT'D)
That's my son.

JIMMY
I'm so --

TED
(ignoring)
Sammy's been in and out of intensive care. Always pale, fragile, I forgot what he looked like. But there he is.

Ted smiles down at Sammy. Tears well up in his eyes. He pulls the car down another roadway.

TED (CONT'D)
Muddy, in his Eagles jersey. Hair a mess. Been outside.
(beat)
That's my son.

Jimmy shifts in his seat. Ted reaches into his pocket and pulls out a sheet of paper.

TED (CONT'D)
You weren't the only one with a note.

He hands it to Jimmy.

JIMMY
(reading the note)
Mom and Dad. I know we talked about death --

Ted frowns. Jimmy lowers the paper.

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JIMMY (CONT'D)
That's all it says?

TED
Sammy's days were always numbered. Even he knew it. Kid pulled an Andy Reid and ran outta time in the fourth quarter.
(beat)
Shit happens. No matter how hard you plan.

JIMMY
How's Mrs. Harlow?

TED
About how you'd expect for a mother without her son.

JIMMY
She said you guys didn't get a note.

TED
Found it after I cleared the rest of the stuff you idiots missed from Sammy's room.

JIMMY
You didn't show her?

TED
She was in the room when he died. I was at work. Guess I'm selfish.

JIMMY
You were there when I got there.

TED
I didn't get a goodbye.

JIMMY
I'm sorry.

TED
How's my daughter?

That one catches Jimmy by surprise.

JIMMY
She's really strong.

TED
Goddamn, you're an idiot.

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Ted makes a left. Jimmy's wrecked car is up ahead. Kate and Lump sit in front of it. The two cops, Stubby and Tall, flank them. A red AMBULANCE idles next to them. A PARAMEDIC wraps Lump's arm.

Ted pulls to a stop at the end of the block.

TED (CONT'D)
Jimmy, There's no human alive that's as strong as you're asking my daughter to be.
(beat)
She needed you. I thought you'd be the guy around through all this. Christ, do you know how loud you were climbing through her window?

Jimmy laughs. Ted moves in close.

TED (CONT'D)
90% of being young is making mistakes. The other 10% is learning how to deal with them.

JIMMY
Are you going to take us to jail?

Ted shakes his head, "no."

TED
Not sure how I'd explain it. The undertaker thinks he's in the bin, his mother wouldn't ever forgive you, I'd probably lose my job.

JIMMY
I wanted Sammy to be happy.

TED
I wish you were there this week.

JIMMY
I wanted to be.

TED
But you couldn't keep your hands off my daughter.

Jimmy squirms.

JIMMY
I thought Sammy would be around forever.

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TED
We all did.
(beat)
Between the magazines and booze it looks like you tried your best to keep him normal. I respect that. Not that many people would have the stones to carry a body around with them. But I have to ask, what the hell are you planning on doing with it?

JIMMY
We're headed down to the Stadiums. Put him under the fifty-yard line.

TED
You thought you'd finish alone?

JIMMY
I'm not sure I thought any of this through.

TED
You need a new car. Probably the team back.

JIMMY
Excuse me?

TED
It'll be easier that way. Not much time left.

Ted revs his engine.

JIMMY
Why are you doing this for me?

TED
I'm not. I like you Jimmy but I'm doing it for him. It's what he wanted. It's my goodbye.

Ted guns the car. It screeches to a halt in front of Tall and Stubby. He blinds them with his patrol light. He pops out of the car.

EXT. STREET - EARLY MORNING

Ted rushes over to them.

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TED
Hey!

With their attentions on Ted, Jimmy sneaks around the side of the squad car with Sammy.

TED (CONT'D)
Come here.

The Cops and Medic obey.

Kate and Lump immediately see him. Their eyes bulge. He approaches on tip toes.

JIMMY
(whispers)
Let's move.

KATE
Are you crazy? My Dad's right there!

JIMMY
Your Dad's the one who brought me here.

Ted makes eye contact with Kate and nods.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Kate I'm so sorry --

KATE
Save it, let's roll.

LUMP
Leave me.

JIMMY
No child left behind.

Jimmy grabs Lump's good arm.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
(off Lump's glare)
I'll make an elaborate speech saying how sorry later but the sun is rising and we gotta go!

Tall and Stubby turn around. The Ambulance speeds away, Jimmy at the wheel.

All of the men run toward squad cars and leap into their seats. They fumble with keys and start engines.

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TALL
Should we follow?

It's too late the cruiser pulls forward and dings into Tall and Stubby's car, popping a tire. Ted leans from his window.

TED
Shit, who told you to park there?

I/E. AMBULANCE - MORNING

Jimmy, Kate, and Lump race down the highway. Sammy is on the stretcher in the back.

KATE
We're almost there.

JIMMY
Keep your eyes peeled.

LUMP
For what?

KATE
That.

Ahead, we see Dan strolling down the road, the Stadium a shadow in the near distance. The ambulance rolls up next to him. Jimmy rolls down his window.

JIMMY
Want a ride?

DAN
Fuck you.

JIMMY
I can't do this alone.

Kate swings open the back door.

DAN
Always wanted to be in an ambulance.

I/E. AMBULANCE - LATER

Dan and Lump bounce in the back with Sammy. Kate tends to Jimmy's face, he flips the sirens and flies down the street.

The ambulance screeches back to the main drag. Jimmy, blood gone from his face shakes himself back to reality.

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He looks over at Sammy. Sammy's head jiggles as the car lurches forward.

The ambulance hits the main drag. They head down the block.

DAN
You came back for me?

JIMMY
We came back for Sammy.

The ambulance slows. The front seat is caught off guard.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry I fucked up so much.
(beat)
If you want to bail, this is the time.

DAN
We've followed your dumb ass this far.

KATE
How much worse can it get?

JIMMY
You should all hate me.

KATE
We kind of do.

DAN
You're a fucking tool.

LUMP
A bad brother.

KATE
It boils down to Sammy.

DAN
The kid was needy. I guess he was just trying to get control. Telling us what to do, making us bring him things.
(beat)
I mean the motherfucker basically wrote a list of shit we had to do for him after he was dead.

KATE
But he's dead.

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LUMP
You're alive.

KATE
And even if you've almost gotten us all killed tonight --

DAN
We like you.

KATE
Some more than others.

LUMP
You'd do anything for a dead kid.

KATE
We have to believe the same goes for the people you care about that are alive.

Jimmy is dumbfounded.

DAN
So that settles it.
(beat)
We're following the plan.

JIMMY
I don't know what to say.

DAN
For once, shut the fuck up.

I/E. AMBULANCE - MORNING

The ambulance circles a twelve foot chain-link fence surrounding the construction area.

The sun peaks over the horizon.

DAN
It's all locked up.

LUMP
We could climb over.

JIMMY
(to Dan)
You thinking what I'm thinking?

Jimmy spins the wheel and heads to the end of the road. Once he's about a hundred yards away he jams on the gas pedal.

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The ambulance races forward.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Brace yourselves.

They are gaining speed. Their surroundings whip past.

WHAM!!!

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - MORNING

The ambulance SMASHES through the fence at top speed.

I/E. AMBULANCE - MORNING

The ambulance races past mounds of pipes, cinderblock towers, and mounds of dirt.

The ambulance drives over a pile of rebar that rips at their undercarriage. Flotsam, jetsam, and fluid bleed from underneath the car.

The engine smokes and they pull over next to the foundation of the stadium.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - MORNING

The kids pour from the ambulance.

JIMMY
Two accidents in one day.

DAN
I feel like a fucking action movie star.

Jimmy helps Kate exit the front. He attempts to lift Lump out but Lump resists.

LUMP
I can do it myself.

They trade smiles.

JIMMY
Way to man up.

Jimmy pulls Sammy from the car and lifts him onto his shoulder.

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JIMMY (CONT'D)
Let's get to work.

They survey their surroundings. Their side of the stadium is just piles of equipment. No open land. Directly across from them is palatial smooth dirt.

Jimmy starts to move toward the open land. There is no way around the stadium. Four story dirt mounds flank either side.

KATE
Do we pick any spot or?

JIMMY
I was thinking the fifty-yard line.

DAN
Clutch.

Lump hurries to the side of one and tried to climb. The loose dirt falls under his feet. Dan catches up.

KATE
We'll have to walk around the foundation.

Jimmy walks up to the white concrete mass. It's a giant rectangle of lifeless white covered side to side in this rebar fortification.

JIMMY
It'll be faster if we go across.

Dan places his foot on the concrete. It sinks.

DAN
It's still wet.

JIMMY
Perfect.

The gang makes their way across the minefield that is the rebar reinforcing.

They take baby steps. Lump teeters behind the rest. With one arm it's hard for him to maintain balance. Jimmy is bowlegged, trying to steady Sammy. Kate and Dan, not far behind, use each other for balance.

They're almost there before the inevitable.

SPLASH!

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They turn to see Lump flailing in the thick wet mass. He's gasping and grabbing. Dan and Kate try their best to get there but Lump sinks out of sight.

Without hesitating Jimmy drops Sammy and races over. His agility takes him past Dan and Kate to the now calm concrete where Lump disappeared.

Jimmy plunges his arm into the wet mess and comes up with nothing. He looks up at Kate and Dan.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
GRAB MY LEGS!

Jimmy dives headfirst into the slop. His torso wriggles and he gesticulates side to side. He goes taunt. He kicks a leg. Dan and Kate pull with all their might but their balance makes retracting Jimmy a slow process. As he surfaces he pulls Lump with him. Both GASPING for air.

Dan lays them across the rebar to catch their breath. Jimmy pulls Lump close for a bear hug.

LUMP
Quit being such a pussy.

DAN
Where's Sammy?

Jimmy points toward the other side. Sammy's legs are half sunk in the muck.

The gang makes their way to Sammy. They are in the exact middle of the rectangular shell. Dan and Jimmy lay Sammy flat across the rebar.

KATE
This is it.

DAN
What a night.

Jimmy and Dan slide Sammy under the bars and into the wet mass. They peer down at him; his face solemn. Dan looks at Jimmy.

JIMMY
On three.

DAN
One, two, three.

JIMMY
One, two, three.

They release their hands at the same time. The body floats.

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DAN
Shit.

Jimmy and Dan try to push on the body but it bobs up and down. Cement splatters on Sammy's face.

JIMMY
It's the air inside the body.

DAN
We have to weight it down.

Jimmy and Dan make their way to the pile of cinderblocks on the other side. Each grab two.

They pull Sammy's feet through the holes. They do the same with his arms. With all four limbs weighted Jimmy and Dan struggle to hold Sammy afloat.

JIMMY
We gotta let go.

DAN
Are you ready?

JIMMY
I'm not sure.

Jimmy looks around at the haggard crew. Were they ready for this? For any of it?

Kate steps forward. She kneels on the rebar. Kate gently wipes the cement from her brother's face with the corner of her pajamas.

LUMP
(to Jimmy)
You have to do it.

The others nod.

JIMMY
Do what?

KATE
Say something.

Dan purses his lips and nods too.

DAN
Not right without a few words.

Jimmy brushes his hair from his eyes. They're welling up. To be fair, everyone has tears in their eyes at this moment.

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JIMMY
Sammy . . . Sammy --

Dan steps forward.

DAN
He liked his drinks like he liked his dick. Stiff. And he was the last person I know who liked magazine porn.

Kate rises.

KATE
He was a great brother and simultaneously a bit of a selfish prick.

LUMP
He loved the Philadelphia Eagles and hated the fucking cowboys.

Jimmy is touched by their bravery but he knows it's his turn.

JIMMY
Sammy was my brother.
(correcting himself)
Our brother. Those Sunday games were about the only goddamn times Sammy got to be happy.

The bobbing Sammy turns toward Jimmy. They make almost-eye contact.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
(begins to sob)
Why'd you have to go an die?

Kate hugs Jimmy. Dan does the same, Lump joins. Without knowing it they've let go. The body begins to bubble out of sight. They hug. It's a fucking good, long, wet crying, hug. Chests heave, hearts sigh. As they relax their attention diverts to the body, now air bubbles.

Three bubbles, two bubbles, one bubble. He's gone.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
(sotto)
Goodbye.

A collective wiping of eyes. Dan haucks a big lougie. Lump uses Jimmy's shirt to wipe his nose. This makes Jimmy, Kate, and Dan laugh.

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Jimmy sits back on the rebar. Kate and Lump sink to his side. Dan scoots back to join them. They watch the bubbles rise from the cement; they go from big to small, then stop.

Jimmy puts his arm around Kate and Lump. Dan pulls a pack of cigarettes from his pocket. He hands one to each of them. Lump looks at Jimmy who nods approval. They light and inhale.

A collective deep breath.

Lump gags. They chuckle. Each takes a moment to revel in the night before, was the funeral just yesterday morning?

All lean on their elbows, cigarettes waning. The sun has risen. Jimmy looks back and forth at his friends.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
How do you guys want to get home?

FADE OUT.

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