

Three's A Crowd

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v 1.0

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This story is dedicated to the men I grew up with.

INTRO

Set to the tune of Jeff Rosenstock's "Festival Song", the title credit sequence consists of cartoon renderings of Ravi, Andy, and Sebastian meeting one another as kids. They plan the road trip down Route 66 and embark together. Meanwhile, cast and crew credits are interwoven into the fantastical roadside attractions that dot each side of the highway. As the kids age, so does the art style mature and the mediums change from computer paper to notebook paper to graph paper until the final beats of "Festival Song" turn into a pen tapping on tempo.

INT. RAVI'S OFFICE - DAY

A pen taps away rhythmically on a gray office desk. It drums along the surface, attached to a hand that seems to have a mind of its own. RAVI VERMA (late 20s, Indian-American, built like a beanpole) clicks through spreadsheet after spreadsheet, his hand absentmindedly tapping away.

He glances down at the pen. The tapping stops.

Ravi gets out of his chair and leans his head out of his small office. The hallway is empty. The walls are bare apart from stock image photos of pristine landscapes far, far away from there. The lights flicker with a bleak, sterile fluorescence.

He slowly sinks back into the chair at his desk and ponders the pen in silence. He grabs a second pen from a desk organizer with his other hand and begins drumming away on the desk.

He starts slow at first, but the beat picks up speed and becomes more complex as the pens contact papers, wood, plastic, anything nearby that will make a unique sound.

ROGER (mid-40s, graying and slouching) appears in the doorway.

ROGER
(monotone)
Afternoon, Ravi.

Ravi drops the pens immediately which clatter awkwardly across the desk.

RAVI
Afternoon, Roger!

ROGER
Time for your performance review.

Ravi leaps to his feet.

RAVI
Yessir! I've been looking forward to
it all day.

Ravi flashes a friendly grin. Roger turns toward his office
without a single decipherable reaction.

INT. ROGER'S OFFICE - DAY

Roger's office is only slightly bigger than Ravi's. The wall
behind him is adorned with Roger's undergraduate degree, his
master's degree, and a few very tiny pictures of his family.
Roger sips out of a "World's Best Boss" mug, but the paint
composing the word "Best" has worn off. It now reads
"World's Boss."

ROGER
It's been a pleasure to have you here
on the team over the last year. Your
reports are on time, your behavior
professional.

RAVI
Thank you, sir!

ROGER
Now, I know you've been asking for
more responsibilities...

Ravi scoots his seat forward, leans in towards Roger, and
places his fingers interlaced on the desk.

ROGER (cont'd)
A Junior Management position is very
competitive, as you know, but I have
put in a good word on your behalf. If
we play our cards right, in 6-8
months, you could see yourself on
track a position like mine.

Ravi glances around Roger's beige, bare office. He spryly
gets to his feet, extends a hand, and flashes a big smile.

RAVI
I promise I won't let you down.

INT. RAVI'S OFFICE - DAY

Ravi is back in his office once more. He notices the two pens on his desk and promptly stuffs them in his desk drawer.

A "beep" as a text message appears on his phone. It's from "Dad".

DAD

[Ravi, how did your review go today?]

RAVI

[Great!]

DAD

[Did you offer to step up with the Merrill Acct like I told you?]

RAVI

[Yes.]

DAD

[Good. A raise will be on its way, you'll see!]

RAVI

[They said it could be coming as soon as six months from now! Thanks.]

Ravi sets his phone facedown and rubs his temple.

INT. BREAK ROOM - DAY

Ravi stands in a small circle of coworkers. Everyone wears an identical button-down and slacks "uniform" as they chat away at the water-cooler. They have different faces and different names, but can you really tell them apart?

COWORKER #1

Were you able to finish up the Merrill Account?

COWORKER #2

Almost finished, I just need to give the documents a once-over and send them to Gary.

COWORKER #3

Isn't Gary out this week?

COWORKER #2

Is he?

COWORKER #1

Yeah I think he went to Tampa.

COWORKER #3

You know, he missed Deborah's Egypt-themed gender reveal party?

COWORKER #1

He did NOT.

COWORKER #3

She would barely touch her sarcophagus cake, and what's else...

The three coworkers voices drown out and become muffled as Ravi sips his coffee and nods along amicably.

INT. ELEVATED TRAIN - AFTERNOON

Ravi stares out the window of the elevated train into the lights of downtown Chicago. Reflections of buildings fly across his face. Ravi returns to checking his cellphone.

INT. RAVI'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Ravi walks into a small studio apartment with empty white walls, a couch, a bed, a TV, a stove, mini-fridge, and not much else. He tosses his backpack onto the small sofa and plops facedown onto the bed.

Ravi's phone rings. He flips right side up and answers.

RAVI

Hello, this is Ravi.

ANDY (V.O.)

Hey.

There's a long pause of silence over the phone line.

RAVI

Hello? Who is this?

ANDY (V.O.)

It's Andy. Andy Chen.

Ravi stands up straight off his bed as the world around him dims into blackness. All we can see are two mouths, illuminated from overhead in a black void.

RAVI

Andy! Hey man... How's it going?

ANDY

Can you meet me in Dulmeade tonight?

RAVI

What? No, sorry, I've got work tomorrow and-

ANDY

Sebastian is dead.

Silence. Deafening silence.

RAVI

What.

ANDY

I'll see you tonight. My parent's place.

The phone clicks, Andy's mouth disappears into the dark void, and Ravi's world returns to him. His mouth hangs open with the receiver to his ear, playing the monotonous dial tone.

EXT. DULMEADE, WISCONSIN - NIGHT

A Greyhound bus cruises down the highway past a road sign for Dulmeade, WI:

"The Home of Dulmeade Dairy, Don't'cha Know!"

Ravi stares out the window as he passes Dulmeade Senior High. The sky is a cool dark blue, and the moon casts an azure light off the blankets of snow. It's something that you can only really see in a small town. Ravi leans back in his seat and massages the bridge of his nose.

EXT. ANDY'S PARENT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ravi scrolls through his phone contacts until he sees "Andy Chen". His phone clock reads 8:35pm. He texts Andy.

RAVI

[I'm outside.]

A bubble with three dots appears in the text window.

ANDY

[omw]

Ravi looks up when he hears a click from the front door. The lights are off at the front of the house, and the only illumination is a streetlight that makes Ravi barely visible.

A man walks out of the front door and locks it behind him. As he approaches, the street light plays across his face. ANDY CHEN (late 20s, Chinese-American, thick and unkempt beard) takes out a cigarette and lights it. He adjusts the ragged beanie on the top of his head.

ANDY (cont'd)

Want one?

Ravi keeps his hands tucked in his jacket pockets.

RAVI

No thanks.

There's a long and awkward pause as Andy shrugs and takes a drag from his cigarette.

RAVI (cont'd)

When did you start smoking?

ANDY

Few months after graduation.

RAVI

What happened?

ANDY

I was at a 7-11 and I said "Monsieur, a pack of Marlboro's, s'il vous plait!"

RAVI

No, not- What the hell happened to Sebastian?

ANDY

Remember the Make-A-Wish trip?

RAVI

Yeah, of course.

ANDY

Well, he went for a reason, right?
Congenital heart defect?

Andy takes another drag.

ANDY (cont'd)

Came back.

RAVI

Jesus Christ. I- I'm so sorry, I
didn't know.

Andy flicks his cigarette butt to the ground and puts it out
with his shoe.

ANDY

I need your help with something.

Andy reaches into his front pocket and hands a folded piece
of paper to Ravi. Ravi slowly unfolds the paper. It's a
signed autograph of Baxter the Axolotl, the mascot of Baxter
Park in Santa Bela, California.

On the other side of the photo, in faded pencil, Ravi sees a
crudely drawn map of the United States. There's a big red
marker line going from Chicago to Los Angeles. At the top of
the page, the title reads:

"The Greatest God Damn Road Trip of All God Damn Time"

Each "God Damn" has a couple underlines beneath. The names
of a young Sebastian Adams, Ravi Verma, and Andy Chen are
scrawled in pencil in the margins.

RAVI

Holy shit.

ANDY

We're going.

RAVI

Excuse me?

ANDY

Sebastian and I. We're going to
Baxter Park, all the way down Route
66 from Chicago. And we want you to
come with us.

RAVI

Sebastian's dead.

ANDY

Yes.

RAVI

Andy, if he's dead, you can't-

Andy looks down at his feet.

RAVI (cont'd)

No. Nuh-uh.

ANDY

I need your help.

RAVI

No fucking way.

ANDY

The morgue is a few blocks from here.
We can get in and out and no one will
see-

RAVI

You're completely insane.

Ravi drops the map and turns to walk the other way. Andy
bends down to pick it up. He sticks his pinky finger out in
front of him.

ANDY

Pinky-pinky never lies!

Ravi stops in his tracks and closes his eyes. He turns to
face Andy with a steely glare.

RAVI

(through clenched
teeth)

Should you break it, friendship dies.

Andy puts the pinky down.

ANDY

I was with him... at the end. He gave
me this. He told me to bury him
there, and he told me he wanted you
with us. I mean... he said "pinky-
pinky," man.

Ravi looks down at the driveway and kicks some rubble to the
side.

RAVI
God dammit.

ANDY
His parents want to cremate him for
some kind of Catholic thing. They
wouldn't listen!

Ravi shushes Andy as his voice reverberates through the
neighborhood.

RAVI
(screaming whisper)
We can't steal a body and bury it on
the other side of the country!

ANDY
So we're just going to ignore his
dying wish? Let them *dispose* of him?

RAVI
It's not our place!

ANDY
Of course it's our fucking place.
We're his best friends!!

They breathe heavily, like two do before they throw punches.

ANDY (cont'd)
You're the only person who can help
me. Otherwise, I promise, oh I
promise, I would **never** have called
you. And I'm doing this whether
you're coming or not.

RAVI
I have a job.

ANDY
Take time off.

RAVI
And if we get caught?

ANDY
We won't get caught.

RAVI
How are you so sure?

ANDY
Because I have to be.

RAVI

Dude, I don't even have a car. I took the bus here. How the hell do we get him to California?

Andy walks over the garage door at the end of his parent's driveway. He flips open the cover on the keypad and types in a code. The door slowly rises, basking the two men in a warm tungsten light, rising up from their feet.

Andy walks into the garage. We hear him open a large metal car door and turn the key. The headlights flash on as the engine roars.

From the maw of the garage comes the ugliest, junkiest ice cream truck on the face of the planet Earth.

A garish hot pink paint covers the exterior of the hull as the exhaust pipe spews out a dark cloud of noxious fumes. A fiberglass ice cream cone with chocolate sprinkles sits waffle-cone-up on the roof. The side is adorned with the logo for "Dulmeade Dairy".

Andy steps out from the driver's seat and slaps the side.

ANDY

Thy chariot awaits, sirrah.

RAVI

What is the Dulmeade Deathtrap doing in your garage?

Andy walks around to the back of the truck.

ANDY

I got a gig driving it around in the summers. Boss pays me a garage fee to store it in the winter.

He opens the backdoor and climbs inside.

ANDY (cont'd)

So no one's gonna miss it.

RAVI

Didn't they lose two drivers in the span of a week that one summer?

ANDY

Yeah, but I mean... they fixed the brakes after the second guy.

He motions for Ravi to step inside the truck. Ravi looks around the cramped compartment and ducks so that his head doesn't hit the roof.

RAVI
How would we even fit him in here?

Andy leads him to the back where he lifts open the lid of the ice cream freezer.

The freezer is about the size of an adult human body.

ANDY
What do you think?

RAVI
I think we're going to Hell, Andy.

EXT. DULMEADE MORGUE - MIDNIGHT

The truck sputters and wheezes as Andy and Ravi park around the back of the building. Under cover of night and a single overhead garage light, the two sneak up to a back door. Andy puts his hand on the doorknob and crosses his fingers.

He turns the knob. The door is unlocked.

RAVI
I really wish that hadn't worked.

ANDY
Hush.

RAVI
They just leave morgue unlocked overnight?!

ANDY
Who the hell besides us is trying to rob a body around here?

Andy looks over his shoulder with a wry smile.

RAVI
"Mr. Verma and Mr. Chen were sentenced for twenty years in a state-penitentiary for the desecration of-"

ANDY
You know, Ravi, success starts with your attitude.

Andy gets slapped in the back of the head.

INT. DULMEADE MORGUE - NIGHT

Andy and Ravi tiptoe through the halls of the morgue. It's completely silent apart from the lights humming overhead. They make their way to the windowed double doors that separate the autopsy room from the rest of the morgue.

Suddenly, they hear the slop of a mop hitting linoleum down the hall, accompanied by whistling. They turn to see a **janitor** with his back facing them. He wears headphones and whistles along to himself. He turns toward the double doors.

Ravi and Andy have vanished, but the janitor notices the slight swing of the autopsy room door. He removes his headphones and approaches the windows.

INT. AUTOPSY ROOM - NIGHT

On the other side of the door, Andy and Ravi sit on the ground, holding their breath and pressing their backs up against the door. The janitor peers through the windows above but can't see them from such a high angle. He shrugs and turns back around. The two let out a sigh of relief.

ANDY

(panting)

Ok, we need a lookout.

Ravi gives an exasperated thumbs up while he catches his breath. He checks his heart rate with a finger up to his neck and his watch. Andy slaps the watch out of the way.

ANDY (cont'd)

Save it for Planet Fitness, weirdo.

RAVI

I go to Equinox, asshole.

Andy laughs.

ANDY

I'm the asshole??

Andy gets to his feet and approaches the array of stainless steel doors along the wall. He reaches out, hesitates, and pulls the first handle. The door opens to reveal a pair of feet with a toe tag attached. Andy reads the tag and shuts the door.

Ravi peeks through the windows in the double doors while Andy systematically goes through each cabinet and checks the tags.

RAVI
Is he even here?

ANDY
He has to be! Just give me a second.

RAVI
Please hurry up!

ANDY
You wanna smell a bunch of dead
feet?! Be my guest, you kinky sicko!

Andy yanks open one last door, so hard the handle breaks off.

ANDY (cont'd)
Oopsie.

A cold mist billows out of the refrigerated chamber. Andy checks the toe tag.

ANDY (cont'd)
Ravi.

Ravi is still distracted, watching through the door.

RAVI
What?!

ANDY
Found him.

Ravi turns slowly. All he can see is the open chamber and a pair of feet. He walks over to face Andy on the other side of the mortuary fridge. Andy pulls on the tray table that rolls out between the two of them. A white sheet lays gently over a body, covering everything above the ankles. The toe tag reads "Sebastian Adams, 28".

Ravi and Andy give one another a look. Andy grabs a corner of the sheet.

RAVI
Wait.

Ravi stares at the human shape lying in front of him and takes a small, sharp breath.

RAVI (cont'd)

Ok.

Andy pulls back the sheet to reveal the cold, pale visage of SEBASTIAN (28, dark mop of curly hair, currently deceased). Ravi covers his mouth as if he's about to vomit and turns away. Andy stares a few moments longer until he pulls the sheet back over his face.

ANDY

Let's get him out of here.

As Ravi reels from what he's just seen, he looks back towards the windowed doors and sees the janitor coming down the hall.

RAVI

Shit! Hide!

Andy rolls Sebastian's tray back in and shuts the door. He attempts in vain to reattach the handle, but tosses it in the cabinet with Sebastian instead.

The two of them look around the room for a hiding spot. They both stare at the mortuary fridge. Ravi gulps.

The janitor whistles his way into the autopsy room. He mops the floors down, wipes the tables, really takes his sweet time with it.

After his work is done, he strolls back through the double doors and leaves the room empty.

After a beat, two cabinets in the mortuary fridge fly open as Andy and Ravi crawl out headfirst, gasping for clean air.

INT. DULMEADE MORGUE - NIGHT

Andy peers around a corner, looking up and down the hallway for any signs of trouble. He makes a "move out" motion with his hand like he's in the military.

RAVI

(whispering)

The fuck does that mean?

Andy nods his head toward the hallway and repeats.

RAVI (cont'd)

(whispering)

Use your big boy words!

Andy rolls his eyes.

ANDY
(whispering)
Move out! Buzzkill.

As Andy rounds the corner, we see the two boys have wrapped Sebastian up in the white sheet like a burrito. They carry him by his shoulders and ankles down the hallway.

EXT. DULMEADE MORGUE - NIGHT

The boys make their daring escape from out the backdoor of the morgue. Andy and Ravi try to stick to the shadows as they carry Sebastian's body towards the ice cream truck.

But as they pass by a tree, a branch gets caught on the sheet. With one big tug, the sheet unravels completely, leaving Sebastian's corpse completely naked.

RAVI
Agh! No no no, oh no. We gotta pick that back up.

ANDY
Dude, there's no time! I've got clothes packed.

Ravi keeps his line of sight as high up as possible.

RAVI
I never wanted to know him like this!

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - NIGHT

The two hoist Sebastian's limp, naked body into the freezer in the back of the ice cream truck. Before they close the lid, they give him one last look as his glassy blue eyes stare into nothing.

Andy hops in the driver's seat and starts the engine, which backfires like a shotgun echoing through a forest.

ANDY
Oh, that was so loud.

RAVI
Drive! Drive! Drive!!

EXT. DULMEADE MORGUE - NIGHT

The truck peels away as the janitor rushes out the backdoor. He can't make out the license plate as it skids and swerves on the icy road. The truck bumps into a tree, taking out a taillight as it disappears into the darkness.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - NIGHT

Andy and Ravi cruise down the small winding roads of Wisconsin in the ice cream truck. Dairy farm after dairy farm passes by them as they make their way towards the interstate.

Andy lights up a cigarette and blows the smoke out the driver's side window. Ravi looks down at his hands.

Andy glances over at Ravi.

ANDY

Hey man, you should try to get some sleep. It's gonna be a long trip.

RAVI

I don't think I can.

The two share a heavy silence as they listen to the putter of the engine, the roll of the tires, and the occasional shuffle from the freezer in the back.

ANDY

I've got an idea.

INT. MAGGIE'S DINER, CHICAGO - DAWN

Ravi and Andy sit across from one another in a diner booth. Andy scarfs down the last bite of his omelet, while Ravi sips a black coffee and stares at an untouched plate of eggs, toast, and hash browns.

ANDY

This was a great idea.

Ravi starts to gulp down his coffee, still dawning the thousand yard stare. He puts the coffee down on the table, at which point a waitress walks up.

WAITRESS

Would you like more coffee, dear?

Ravi nods slightly, not making eye contact.

RAVI

Yes, ma'am.

The waitress pours him another cup. She shoots Andy a concerned look, to which Andy responds with a shy shrug. She leaves to tend to other tables.

ANDY

Dude, you gotta chill. That lady is not getting paid enough to deal with your... whole thing right now.

RAVI

(strained)

Chill?? I gotta *chill*?! We are mere *blocks* away from my office right now, and we have a dea-

ANDY

(speaking over him)

Deadline to meet! Mhmm, yes, yes, very busy.

(whispering)

Part of not-getting-caught is acting not-super-weird, ok? You gotta figure out how to reel it in, Ravi. Reel it in.

Andy mimes reeling Ravi in with an imaginary fishing rod. Ravi crosses his arms.

ANDY (cont'd)

(still miming)

Ravi, reeeeeeeel it in. Reel it in, Ravi.

The waitress delivers the check. Ravi goes for his wallet.

RAVI

I can cover this.

ANDY

Hey!

Ravi jumps in his seat from Andy's dramatic shift in tone. Andy produces some wrinkled dollar bills from his jacket pocket and slams them on the table.

ANDY (cont'd)

You pay for your food. I can cover my own shit.

Ravi puts his wallet back and puts his hands up apologetically.

RAVI

Alright.

EXT. CHICAGO - MORNING

As the morning sun billows through the skyscrapers of Downtown, Andy pulls the truck up to the "Route 66 Begin" sign on Adams St. He leans out the window, gives it a little salute, and the road trip is underway.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - DAY

The two sit in silence as they barrel down the highway away from the Windy City, nothing but Illinois farmland on either side.

ANDY

Hey, can you open the glove box?

RAVI

Sure.

Ravi lifts the latch and the glove box opens. It's empty apart from one large roll of duct tape. Ravi holds up the tape roll.

RAVI (cont'd)

This?

Andy grabs the duct tape and places it in between his knees. He reaches down into a duffel bag behind him and produces a bluetooth speaker. He holds it above his head triumphantly.

ANDY

We got tunes!! Hold the wheel.

Andy **releases the steering wheel** and rips off a piece of tape.

RAVI

Oh nice-- WHAT?!

Ravi grabs onto the wheel as the truck swerves on the road. He frantically re-centers them in the lane.

ANDY

Woah! Easy there, tiger.

Andy attaches the bluetooth speaker to the dashboard of the ice cream truck with four pieces of duct tape. He settles back into his seat and grabs hold of the wheel.

RAVI
Don't EVER do that again!

ANDY
What?? I thought it'd be funny!

Andy looks back and forth between his cellphone and the road. A blue light blinks on the bluetooth speaker, and it plays a connect tone.

With a bit more ill-advised tapping-while-driving, the first bassy notes to Lemon Demon's "Ultimate Showdown" play from the speaker. Ravi cracks a nostalgic smile.

RAVI
Aw, alright.

ANDY
Yeahhhhh, man!

RAVI
I haven't heard this song in ages.

ANDY
(singing along)
*Old Godzilla was hopping around
Tokyo city like a big playground
When suddenly Batman--*
(speaking)
C'mon, man, sing along.

RAVI
I can't. I don't remember the words.

ANDY
Oh, bullshit! I have heard you recite every word of this song by heart.

RAVI
What, like... fifteen years ago?

ANDY
Nah, man. This kind of song, this cultural monolith, should be etched into your skull.

RAVI
I'm telling you I forgot it.

ANDY

(singing along)

--down from the heavens descended
Chuck Norris
Who delivered a kick which could
shatter bones

(speaking)

"Into the crotch of Indiana Jones"?
You remember none of this?

RAVI

Well yeah, I remember the words after
you say them!

ANDY

Best part's coming up.

RAVI

Is it?

ANDY

You know it is.

RAVI

I don't think I do.

ANDY

Don't lie to me, Ravi! Let the beat
flowww through you!

RAVI

Fiiiiine!

BOTH

(singing)

And then Gandalf the Grey, and
Gandalf the White, and Monty Python
and the Holy Grail's Black Knight,
and Benito Mussolini, and the Blue
Meanie, and Cowboy Curtis, and Jamb
the Jenie, Robocop, The Terminator,
Captian Kirk, and DARTH Vader, Lo
Pan, Superman, every single Power
Ranger, Bill S.

(MORE)

BOTH (cont'd)

*Preston, and Theodore Logan, Spock,
the Rock, Doc Ock, and Hulk Hogan all
came outta nowhere lightning fast
And they kicked Chuck Norris in his
cowboy ass
It was the bloodiest battle that the
world ever saw
With civilians looking on in total
awe
The fight raged on for a century.
Many lives were claimed, but
eventually
The champion stood. The rest saw
their better:
Mister Rogers in a blood-stained
sweater!*

The two laugh as Andy peers out the side mirror.

There's a **cop car** tailing them.

ANDY

Shit.

Andy rips the speaker down from the dashboard.

RAVI

What is it?

ANDY

Just stay cool.

The cop's lights go on, accompanied by the "whoop" of a siren. Andy pulls over and turns off the engine. Ravi looks back at the freezer holding Sebastian.

RAVI

Oh, that's bad. That's really bad.
Can you see the side? Does it say
Dulmeade?! You don't think-?

Andy turns to Ravi, mimes a fishing rod, and turns around to greet OFFICER DEUSHBAEG (late 40s, mustache & aviators, never met a can of pepper spray he didn't like) as he saunters up to the window. His name tag reflects the sunlight directly into Andy's eyes.

ANDY

(squinting)

Good afternoon, officer.

DEUSHBAEG

License and registration, please.

ANDY

Sure thing.

Andy rummages through his duffel bag for his wallet and the truck's registration.

Deushbaeg peers over his aviators at Ravi and lets out a nervous chuckle.

DEUSHBAEG

Where you boys headed?

RAVI

California, sir.

Deushbaeg looks around the interior of the truck.

DEUSHBAEG

In this?

Andy sits up with license and registration in hand. He flashes a smile.

ANDY

Believe it or not, it is street legal.

Deushbaeg scowls, snatches the papers, and saunters back to his cruiser.

ANDY (cont'd)

(whispering)

We're gonna be fine. This guy's a dumbass.

RAVI

(scream whispering)

A dumbass with a GUN! And we're two felons!

Deushbaeg reappears.

DEUSHBAEG

You know why I pulled you over, son?

ANDY

No, sir.

DEUSHBAEG

You've got a broken tail light.

ANDY

Oh... duh! Happened just this morning. We were actually on our way to get that fixed.

DEUSHBAEG

On your way to California.

ANDY

Yup.

Deushbag leans on the open window, forcing Andy to remove his arm from the spot.

DEUSHBAEG

Now, usually I'd have to give you a fix-it ticket for this sort of thing. But, I could let you off with a warning. You got one of those Spider-Man pops? I like them gumball eyes.

Andy and Ravi look at each other. Deushbaeg eyes Ravi again.

DEUSHBAEG (cont'd)

Pal, you from Afghanistan?

RAVI

Wisconsin.

DEUSHBAEG

Y'know, I did a couple tours over there.

RAVI

In Wisconsin?

Andy gets up out of the seat.

ANDY

Right away, officer. That won't be a problem.

Andy walks into the back of the truck, opens the freezer, and grabs one of the wrapped ice cream bars surrounding Sebastian's corpse. He opens wrapper, rubs it around on Sebastian's cheek, and closes the fridge.

Andy returns to the front of the truck. He flashes a winning smile and hands the ice cream to Deushbaeg.

ANDY (cont'd)
Thank you so much, officer. We really
appreciate it. You have a wonderful
day.

Deushbaeg's brow furrows. Ravi looks back and forth between
Andy and the officer, flashing a fake smile to mirror
Andy's.

Deushbag sniffles. He grabs the ice cream.

DEUSHBAEG
Get that light taken care of, boys.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - DAY - LATER

The Dulmeade Deathtrap sputters exhaust as it rolls back
onto the highway. Deushbaeg leans against the hood of his
cruiser and enjoys his Spidey-pop.

DEUSHBAEG
I'm so good at my job.

EXT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - DUSK

The setting sun casts a brilliant orange sky above the truck
as it drives through Missouri, flanked on both sides by neon
motel signs and billboards for kitschy roadside attractions.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Andy's phone rests in a phone holster duct taped to the AC
vent. "Two of Us" by the Beatles plays softly over the
bluetooth speaker as Ravi naps in the passenger seat. The
phone displays a navigation app, but suddenly turns off
along with the music on the speaker.

ANDY
Ah shit. Ravi.

Ravi is fast asleep.

ANDY (cont'd)
Raviii!

Nothing.

Andy jerks the steering wheel to the right and then the
left, causing Ravi to bump his head on the car door.

RAVI

Agh!

ANDY

Oh good, you're awake. Hey, we need to stop somewhere so I can charge my phone.

RAVI

You don't have a car charger?

ANDY

Do you see a charger in here? Or an outlet? This thing is a dinosaur.

RAVI

Cigarette lighter?

ANDY

It's an ice cream truck, dude.

Andy lights up the cigarette in his mouth with a zippo. Ravi raises an eyebrow. Andy blows a puff of smoke out the window.

ANDY (cont'd)

Point taken. Keep a look out, smartass.

Ravi looks out the window, only to find themselves on a rather barren part of the road. Just trees and telephone poles.

Off in the distance, he can see a flickering spotlight illuminating a kitschy road sign. It reads "Reptile World! Next right! Open 24 hours!"

RAVI

Reptile World?

ANDY

Perfect! You're still into lizards and shit, right?

RAVI

There's more to it than "lizards and shit," thank you. Besides, this place looks sorta sketchy.

Andy sees the sign through the windshield.

ANDY

Good enough for me!

Andy makes a sharp right and Ravi grips onto his seat. The ice cream truck shakes and sputters down a gravel road through a thick patch of forest. Finally, the headlights illuminate a building that could be best described as a patchwork log cabin.

A large sign reads "Reptile World! Hundreds inside!"

Andy turns off the truck and steps out.

ANDY (cont'd)
You gonna stay in the truck?

Ravi peers out into the black nothingness of the forest. He flinches as he hears a twig snap.

RAVI
Definitely not.

INT. REPTILE WORLD - NIGHT

A bell above the door *dingalings* as the boys walk into the shack. In front of them stands an intricate array of terrariums, aquariums, and tropical decorations. It is an absolutely monumental collection of reptiles and amphibians, ranging in size from geckos to pythons.

ANDY
Woah.

Ravi turns slowly to take in his surroundings.

RAVI
This place is massive.

ANDY
(calling out)
Hello?

In the corner, there's a visitor's desk with an old cash register. On top of the counter: a silver service bell.

Ravi walks over to the desk. He hovers his finger over the bell and looks around once more.

Ding!

A woman springs up from behind the visitor's desk, coming face to face with Ravi.

DR. CROCODILE
GOOD EVENIN', GENTS!

Ravi screams and falls backwards on his ass. DR. CROCODILE (a wayward glass eye, a snakeskin hat, slightly taller than a Gremlin) leans backward with laughter.

DR. CROCODILE (cont'd)
Ooooooh boy! I'm sorry, kiddos. When I saw youse two coming up, I couldn't help myself! I can smell a pair of city boys from a mile away, and they sure do scare easy, hee HEE!!

Another wheezing laugh from Dr. Crocodile. She lifts up a partition at the visitor's desk and walks around to the front, accompanied by the *thunk-thunk* of a wooden peg leg. Ravi and Andy try their best not to stare at it.

Dr. Crocodile leans down and offers Ravi a hand up off the floor. Ravi takes it.

DR. CROCODILE (cont'd)
Alright, alright. What can I do you fellers for?

Andy holds up a fistful of chargers.

ANDY
Do you have anywhere we could charge our stuff?

RAVI
We can buy something from the gift shop first, if that's necessary.

DR. CROCODILE
Aw, nonsense! You don't gotta buy nothin' to ask Ol' Dr. Crocodile for a helping hand.

RAVI
Uh, are you... Doctor Crocodile?

DR. CROCODILE
PhD! Reptilology.

ANDY
Rad.

Ravi leans over to Andy.

RAVI
(whisper)
The study of reptiles is Herpetology.

ANDY
Gesundheit.

Ravi scowls.

Dr. Crocodile motions to an outlet above the visitor's desk. Andy plugs the phones in. He plugs the bluetooth speaker in another outlet on the other side and then wanders through the maze of terrariums.

Ravi peruses through a few items in the gift shop: reptile tooth necklaces, kitschy "safari" memorabilia, and coloring books. Ravi takes one of the necklaces and brings it to Dr. Crocodile, who stands by the cash register. Her real eye is locked on Ravi as her glass eye drifts leeward.

DR. CROCODILE
Ah, beautiful choice, my friend.
That'll be \$12.99.

RAVI
Do you take card?

DR. CROCODILE
Sure do! Lemme grab the reader.

Dr. Crocodile bends down underneath the desk and produces a massive, yellowed, ancient credit card reader. She blows a fresh coat of dust off the top of it and reaches her hand out for the card.

Ravi hands it over, Dr. Crocodile gives it a swipe, and a cacophony of crunches, whirs, the DSL dial-up tone, and all sorts of unholy noises reverberate from the shaking box.

A barely legible receipt prints out the top on old perforated graph paper. Dr. Croc rips it off and hands it to Ravi with his card. Ravi looks down at the receipt, perplexed.

RAVI
Uh, thanks.

DR. CROCODILE
Sure thing, puddin'!

Andy is a few yards into the glass labyrinth now, surrounded by all manner of scaly creatures.

ANDY
How long have you had this place?

Dr. Crocodile waddles over on her peg leg.

DR. CROCODILE

Oh, about 15 years now. Been a reptile lady for much longer though. Since I was a reptile gal, you could say!

Andy chuckles along.

On the other side of the room, Ravi approaches the threshold to the great reptilian labyrinth. He walks slowly, but flinches when a **bearded dragon** hops up onto the glass.

Ravi leans in to get a better look, and the bearded dragon stares back him. He flicks his tongue. Ravi tilts his head. The two don't break eye contact.

Across the way, Andy and Dr. Crocodile walk through an aisle.

ANDY

When did you start collecting?

DR. CROCODILE

Like I said, when I was a girl! My pa was a tailor, but I wasn't any good at it on account my eye what got lost in a scuffle with a couple of troublemakers from the town over, so he gave the shop to my brother. I was real good at catchin' these little fellers out behind the store, though, so I caught more and more and now I ship some of them in like Delilah here.

Dr. Crocodile waves maternally at a python slithering across a plastic tree branch.

ANDY

A friend of mine was really into critters like this when we were kids.

DR. CROCODILE

Yer pal over there?

ANDY

Oh. Yeah, him too.

Andy peers through the glass at a frog swimming in her tank.

ANDY (cont'd)

But my other friend... back home, there's a creek behind my house.

(MORE)

ANDY (cont'd)

That's actually where I met him for the first time. He just showed up in my backyard one weekend with a bucket.

Andy smiles.

ANDY (cont'd)

He goes, 'Wanna see something cool?' So I say, 'Yeah' obviously, and he leads me to the creek. And he points out, nestled along the edge, there's a mama frog with a whole stack of frog eggs. We got super close, and you could see the baby tadpoles wriggling inside.

Andy turns to see Dr. Crocodile's face streaming with tears. She holds her hat over her heart.

DR. CROCODILE

They really are wonderful creatures, aren't they? That was a beautiful story, son.

ANDY

(concerned)

Uh-huh. Yeah, totally.

Dr. Crocodile gently caresses the side of a glass terrarium as another tear rolls down her cheek.

DR. CROCODILE

I've seen my children grace this world with the gift of life, and every time it breaks my heart. Brand new souls for our big, growing family.

ANDY

Uhh, your children?

DR. CROCODILE

Let me show you the back! You can take some pics for your friend back home.

ANDY

Oh, no, he's not-

Dr. Crocodile grabs Andy by the forearm.

DR. CROCODILE
This way, boy!

For a woman with only one real leg, she's surprisingly brisk as she escorts Andy to a door in the back of the building. Dr. Crocodile smiles at Andy, her glass eye ever adrift.

DR. CROCODILE (cont'd)
Go ahead!

Andy reaches for the door knob and opens the door. His face turns white as a ghost.

The back room of Reptile World is a sadistic taxidermist's wet dream. Discarded lizard cadavers fill a bucket next to a work bench where snakes, frogs, iguanas have been dried, tanned and sewn into lizard skin hats, boots, and wallets.

DR. CROCODILE (cont'd)
Ta-da!! I consider myself a conservationist, so I don't let nothing go to waste!

Andy backs away in horror.

ANDY
Hey, well, it's been a pleasure, but we should really get going. Hey, Ravi!!

On the other side of the room, Ravi still stares into the eyes of the little bearded dragon.

RAVI
(calling out)
Andy, you gotta check this little guy out! It's like he's trying to tell me something.

Andy backs into a tower of stacked terrariums. The base leans up off the floor. One tips over, and...

Crash! A gecko is free.

Smash! A viper is loose.

Mash! It was a Monster Mash.

Like dominoes, the rows of glass cases topple onto each other, sending each little faux habitat careening towards the wooden floor and releasing a swarm of creepy crawlies all over the shack.

DR. CROCODILE
MY BABIES!!

Dr. Crocodile starts to frantically pick up snakes and lizards from the floor, stuffing them into the pockets of her overalls, in her hat, down her boots, wherever.

Andy books it for the door, and Ravi follows suit. They reach the exit when they both stop in unison.

RAVI
(simultaneously)
The phones!

ANDY
(simultaneously)
The tunes!!

They turn around and re-enter the fray, trying as best as they can to not cross paths with anything skittering across the floor.

Ravi unplugs the phones from the wall. He turns to see Andy, chest out, facing a boa constrictor that has wrapped itself around the bluetooth speaker.

ANDY (cont'd)
(breathless)
I think I can take him.

RAVI
Dude, you're not getting that speaker back.

ANDY
But the tunes, man!!

Ravi pulls Andy by the collar towards the exit. Andy reaches out desperately at the abandoned speaker.

ANDY (cont'd)
The tuuuuuuuunes!!

EXT. REPTILE WORLD - NIGHT

Andy and Ravi sprint into the ice cream truck, fire on the ignition, and peel out of the parking lot as critters start to pour out of the building. From inside, we can hear Dr. Crocodile still screaming.

DR. CROCODILE (O.S.)
(muffled)
Oh, what a world! What a worrrld!!

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - NIGHT

Andy grips the steering wheel and glares out the windshield. There's a long, uncomfortable beat of silence. The tunes are noticeably absent.

RAVI
I'm sorry about the speaker.

Andy stays silent.

RAVI (cont'd)
Here, how about this?

Ravi bends down to grab a drink cup from the floor. He opens the glove box, tears off a few pieces of duct tape, and tapes the cup to the dashboard. He places his phone inside.

RAVI (cont'd)
See? We still got tunes!

Ravi presses play, and a shallow, tinny performance of "Joy to the World" by Three Dog Night plays from the phone speakers.

ANDY
You and your Reptilology.

Ravi leans his head back into the seat and groans.

EXT. ROUTE 66 - NIGHT

The truck passes by a row of motels with flickering neon signs.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Ravi peers out the window with dark bags under his eyes. He looks over to see Andy's eyelids get heavy as he slouches over the steering wheel.

RAVI
Hey, man, we should get a room for the night.

Andy shakes himself awake.

ANDY

What? Nah, we're driving the whole way through.

RAVI

You look like you're gonna swerve into a ditch.

ANDY

We'll stop for coffee.

RAVI

Please, man, I just need one night's sleep in a bed. I'll drive tomorrow, and I won't complain the rest of the trip.

ANDY

The whole trip?

RAVI

The whole trip.

Beat.

ANDY

The whole trip?

RAVI

Shut up.

ANDY

Ok, ok, we'll stop. And... it's probably cold enough that he'll be fine overnight.

Andy nods his head towards the freezer.

RAVI

Oh. Right.

ANDY

But once we get further south, we'll have to be careful about how long we leave the engine turned off. No power, no freezer.

EXT. GILBERT MOTEL - CONTINUOUS

The ice cream truck lurches into the parking lot of a rustic, roadside motel.

It's hard to tell whether it's retro-themed or if it simply hasn't been updated since the 70's.

INT. GILBERT MOTEL OFFICE - NIGHT

A short woman (late 60s) with frizzy gray hair sits behind the desk reading a tabloid magazine. The headline reads "CHARLEAH IS OVER! SECRET AFFAIR WITH HIS ACCOUNTANT?!"

Andy and Ravi walk in.

ANDY
(jokingly)
Hi, there! Are you Gilbert?

GILBERT
(deadpan)
Yes.

ANDY
Oh.

Ravi rolls his eyes.

RAVI
We'd like a room please, two beds.

GILBERT
All we've got left is a single.

ANDY
We'll take it.

RAVI
What? No- There's gotta be a room open somewhere else.

GILBERT
This time of year? Doubt it.

Gilbert returns to her magazine. Ravi's shoulders slouch.

INT. GILBERT MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Ravi, already in pajamas, adjusts the flat motel pillows to create a border down the middle of the bed. After a flushing sound, Andy walks out of the bathroom and sees the Great Wall of Fluff.

ANDY
Don't you think that's a little
overkill?

RAVI
I like my space.

ANDY
Suit yourself. Probably for the best,
anyhow.

RAVI
What do you mean?

ANDY
Oh, I sleep naked.

RAVI
WHAT?! No!

Andy starts undressing. Ravi covers his eyes with both his
hands.

RAVI (cont'd)
(whispering)
This is a nightmare. It's all a bad
dream.

ANDY
I thought we said no complaining for
the rest of the trip!

Andy, now fully naked, slides under the covers and cozies
himself in.

ANDY (cont'd)
Do you want a kiss goodnight?

Ravi turns over the other direction.

RAVI
Goodnight, Andy.

INT. GILBERT MOTEL ROOM - LATER

Ravi is still awake, eyes bloodshot, as Andy's snoring
echoes throughout the room. Ravi stares at the heating unit
on the wall. The snores get quieter behind him. His eyes get
heavier. Until...

INT. BACKSTAGE - DAY

Ravi looks down at his hands. His vision is blurry. He can barely make out the shape of the ropes and pulleys that he stands next to.

He looks left to see a clean-shaven, younger Andy.

Somewhere on stage, a pair of drumsticks clatter to the floor.

There's someone standing in front of Ravi. He has a mop of dark curly hair. Ravi reaches out to touch him on the shoulder. The boy with the curly hair turns around, but he has no face.

INT. GILBERT MOTEL ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Ravi sits upright, sweating. He looks over to Andy. The sheets are draped ever-so-perfectly such that Andy's brilliant full moon glimmers in the twilight of dawn.

Ravi, grimacing, pulls the sheets up over it.

Knock knock knock!

Andy is still fast asleep. Ravi checks the alarm clock on the nightstand which reads "5:45am".

Ravi peers through the peephole. Gilbert stands outside. Ravi opens the door.

GILBERT
Pack it up. Get out.

RAVI
I'm sorry?

GILBERT
The bank called. Your account is frozen and they won't pay for the room. Get out.

EXT. GILBERT MOTEL - MORNING

Andy, shirtless, zips up his pants as he stumbles out of the hotel room screaming.

ANDY
ZERO STARS, FUCKWAD! YOU'RE GETTING
ZERO STARS!

GILBERT
Stick your stars up your ass!

ANDY
I CAN'T BECAUSE THERE ARE ZERO OF
THEM, DUMBASS!

Ravi exits with the luggage and shuts the door behind him.
Ravi hands Andy a shirt which Andy angrily snatches.

ANDY (cont'd)
Thank you.

The boys pile into the truck, start the engine, and peel out of the parking lot. As they round the corner, Andy chucks a fast food soda cup at the motel. It splashes brilliantly on the front sign.

ANDY (cont'd)
FUCK YOU, GILBERT!

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - DAY

Ravi shakily pilots the truck as he holds a cellphone to his ear. Andy grips onto the dashboard.

RAVI
(to phone)
Yes, the name is Ravi, R-A-V... V,
not B, V. It's Ravi, not Robby! V as
in Volcano! R-A-V-as-in-Volcano-I!!

Ravi puts the phone to his shoulder.

RAVI (cont'd)
(to Andy)
Can you please check that he didn't
thaw out?

Andy nods silently, unbuckles his seat and climbs into the back of the truck. Andy opens the freezer, Sebastian is still there, frozen.

The truck hits a bump and Andy stumbles backwards. Ravi's suitcase falls over and a few clothes spill out. One of the screws that attaches the freezer to the wall comes loose, but Andy doesn't see.

ANDY
Watch the road!

Andy kneels down to pick up the clothes and place them back in. When he turns towards the suitcase, he comes face-to-face with the **bearded dragon** from Reptile World.

Without a word, Andy shuts the suitcase closed and zips it up. He gently cradles the suitcase in his arms and shuffles back to his seat. Ravi is still on the phone.

RAVI

(to phone)

Yes, I made those purchases. I am on a road trip with a... friend.

(beat)

I just said I was on a road trip. Do you think I drove across the Atlantic Ocean to Munich? So no, I did not make those purchases.

(beat)

Yes? Yes. Ok. Sure, thank you. Yeah, happy holidays.

Ravi hangs up and pinches the bridge of his nose.

RAVI (cont'd)

Dr. Crocodile stole my bank card.

Andy still holds the suitcase.

ANDY

Oh. Can we go to a branch and get another one?

RAVI

My bank is a credit union. They're only in Chicago.

ANDY

Dude. A credit union?

RAVI

They're better for the- whatever! Why do you have my bag?

ANDY

What?

RAVI

Why are you holding my bag?

ANDY

Oh, is this your bag? Um, yeah...

(mumbling)

Theresalizzerdinnit.

RAVI

What?

ANDY

There is a lizard in your bag.

EXT. ROUTE 66 - DAY

The ice cream truck screeches to a halt on the side of the highway.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - LATER

The back doors to the truck are wide open. Andy and Ravi crouch down behind the suitcase and aim it towards the door in front of them.

Andy reaches for the zipper and in one swift motion opens the far side of the suitcase. The boys back up and wait.

The little bearded dragon crawls their way out of the suitcase. They look outward at the road beyond the confines of the ice cream truck. They crawl up onto the suitcase and peer up at Andy and Ravi.

The bearded dragon takes a little seat and licks an eyeball.

ANDY & RAVI

(simultaneously)

We're keeping it? Cool.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - DAY

The bearded dragon warms itself in the sunlight as it sits on the dashboard of the ice cream truck. The truck drives by a billboard reading:

"I'll be watching you"

- God

The "God" however has been vandalized with spray paint, crossed out and replaced with "Sting".

RAVI

If I can't open my account back up,
I'm gonna run out of money before we
get to California.

ANDY

What do you think we should name him?

RAVI

Please focus. How much do you even have on you?

ANDY

I only hold cash. Don't trust banks.

RAVI

What happens when you lose your wallet?

ANDY

Unbridled panic.

RAVI

Right.

ANDY

"Balthazaar"? No.

RAVI

How much do you have?

ANDY

I don't know, like \$500? Can you please help me come up with a name?

RAVI

Ok, that'll cover us for a bit, but with gas and food...

Ravi starts whispering to himself.

ANDY

It's gotta be something punchy. You want people to remember this lizard!

Ravi lets out a huge sigh.

RAVI

Oh, we are so screwed.

ANDY

KING DEMETRIUS, LORD OF THE FLIES!

RAVI

Huh?

ANDY

Because he's a lizard and they eat flies and stuff. And it works both ways because there's that book about the... fly lord.

RAVI

You haven't read that book.

Ravi peers a little closer at King Demetrius.

RAVI (cont'd)

Also that's a she.

ANDY

Who?

RAVI

King Demetrius is female.

ANDY

(smugly)

And gender is a construct.

Ravi opens his mouth to respond, but shrugs in agreement.

EXT. ROUTE 66 - DAY

As the boys drive through Missouri, we see the truck rattle along the winding roads.

Ravi has Andy take a picture of him and King Demetrius underneath the 42-foot-tall Route 66 "World's Largest Rocking Chair".

Andy takes a piss on the side of the road as Ravi checks his phone.

The boys spot roadkill on the highway. They gawk and scream at it, but they can't look away.

EXT. GAS STATION - AFTERNOON

Ravi refills the tank as Andy walks into the convenience store.

Ravi's phone buzzes. He checks the screen and grimaces at the notification. There's a clunk as the tank is finished refueling. Ravi places the gas nozzle back and hops in the truck. He pulls it around to the parking area next to the pumps.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Ravi stops the truck and puts it in park. He unlocks his phone.

DAD

[Ravi, did you get the promotion? We haven't heard from you.]

RAVI

[I think they're still considering between candidates.]

DAD

[That's not a great sign. Did you mishandle any reports lately? I told you to stay on top of it.]

RAVI

[Nope, everything's fine. I'm on top of it. I think they're just taking a while.]

DAD

[Ok... Keep us posted.]

RAVI

[Sure thing]

Ravi slams the phone face-down on the dashboard, leans back in his seat, and lets out a stifled scream through clenched teeth.

He fiddles with the knob on the radio until he reaches a station without static. "Overkill" by Men At Work plays on the radio.

King Demetrius curls himself up on the dashboard to feel the vibrations coming through the speakers. The tension in Ravi's shoulders relaxes, and he starts to bob his head along with the music. He looks out through both windows to check if anyone is nearby. He starts to groove with it a little more. He begins drumming on the steering wheel with his fingers.

The passenger door handle clicks and Ravi frantically grasps for his phone as if he was still texting. Very casual.

Andy hops in with two arms full of various snacks, sodas, slim jims, candies, and a zippo lighter adorned with the Route 66 sign.

RAVI (cont'd)
You think you got enough?

ANDY
Behold! Our roadtrip feast!

RAVI
You... we still have enough left,
right?

Andy give Ravi a dismissive hand-wave.

ANDY
Yeah, yeah, yeah, we're fine, Mom.

Andy opens a bag of cheese puffs, takes one out, and holds it next to King Demetrius who takes a chomp out of it.

ANDY (cont'd)
Aw, good boy, KD.

Andy runs his finger gently across KD's head.

RAVI
He's gonna need some real food
eventually.

ANDY
This is real food.

Ravi chuckles.

RAVI
Yeah, in Dulmeade.

Ravi looks over, but Andy isn't smiling. Andy looks out the window.

ANDY
Let's go.

Ravi starts the truck, pulls out of the gas station, and drives back onto the Route.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - DUSK

The truck's radio plays "Vagabond" by Caamp, but after a few moments, the crackling static consumes the signal, and the song is gone.

Ravi fiddles with the knob on the radio. In the passenger seat, Andy sits and flips through the contents of a 3 ring binder. He wears his sweatshirt backwards so that KD can rest inside the hood, like a kangaroo pouch on his chest.

Ravi continues to move the dial through the stations but only finds more static. He gives up and switches the radio off completely.

Andy flips through another page.

Ravi looks over.

RAVI
What's that?

Andy flips another page.

ANDY
It's Sebastian's.

RAVI
Looks like his design notebook.

Flip.

ANDY
It is.

Andy flips through more pages of the binder, but now we can see its contents: designs, schematics, blueprints. All for theme park rides. As Andy flips through the pages, the quality of the designs change over time. The lines become clearer, the medium transitions from crayons to colored pencils to ink. It jumps from notebook paper to graph paper to detailed printouts of ride vehicle designs, track layouts, and special effects set-pieces.

RAVI
You know that thing almost got me killed once? Sebastian dropped it down a sewer grate when we were younger. He wouldn't go anywhere without it, no matter what I tried. So I agreed to help him climb down there and get it. On the way back up he slipped and pulled me down in with him. Nearly cracked my head wide open.

ANDY
Yeah, he was never any good at leaving things behind.

There's an awkward lull of silence in the truck as Ravi silently guides the steering wheel.

RAVI

So what do we do with it?

ANDY

Bury it with him. That's why I brought it.

Andy looks up from his book to see Ravi gazing solemnly out the windshield. He flips back a few pages and points to one of Sebastian's older designs.

ANDY (cont'd)

Do you remember this one?

Ravi squints at the page.

RAVI

It's a little hard to make out from here.

ANDY

This was... I wanna say first grade? He brought it in for show & tell. The Dragoncoaster.

RAVI

Wait! I remember the Dragoncoaster! Isn't that the one where he had the ride fly through, like, *really* grisly dungeons?

ANDY

Yeah, Ms. Yeates cut him off when he started to explain what an Iron Maiden was.

RAVI

Do you remember-? I can't remember which teacher this was, but he got sent to the principal's office one time for literally reading the dictionary.

ANDY

Yes! Yeah, that was Mrs. Bolton. I know how that happened. I think we were supposed to be doing a short essay thing, but I look over at Sebastian, and he's nose-deep in some book.

(MORE)

ANDY (cont'd)

Bolton catches on, yells at him, but it's also like how are you gonna get mad at a kid for reading in school? Anyways, he pulls out the dictionary pretending to write but instead, in protest, he reads through a quarter of the definitions for "G" words before he's sent packing to Mr. Russel.

RAVI

Oh, fuck Mr. Russel.

ANDY

Fuuuuuuck Mr. Russel.

The two chuckle at their mutual distaste of Mr. Russel, a classic grade-A douche.

RAVI

You remember when his family took that trip to Italy and he wouldn't shut up about pasta for like 3 months?

ANDY

Oh Christ, yes I do. That whole year honestly was just like "Pal, I don't give a shit about penne."

RAVI

The pasta he made was really good though.

ANDY

That was the worst part! I couldn't get him to stop because my mouth was full of pasta!

The two laugh at that final remark. After a beat, the laughter settles.

RAVI

Remember when he first got back from Baxter Park?

ANDY

I remember helping him build the Rhode Baxter shrine in his room.

RAVI

God knows Make-A-Wish didn't give him enough Baxter shit.

ANDY

We stuffed what we couldn't fit in the closet. If *Toy Story* is to be believed, there's an "exo-lo-till" doll in there that's plotting to kill me.

RAVI

Naming a theme park after yourself is kinda lame, isn't it? It's pronounced "axolotl" by the way.

ANDY

I don't care, by the way. It might be lame, but it's not nearly as lame as naming a whole movie studio after yourself. And he's "Uncle Rhode"! He can get away with that stuff. Like Tom Hanks.

RAVI

Tom Hanks and Rhode Baxter, the two good men left in Hollywood.

ANDY

Well, I mean, have you Googled "Tom Hanks allegations"?

RAVI

Please tell me you're kidding. Not Tom.

Andy gives an exaggerated shrug.

RAVI (cont'd)

Asshole. You almost had me.

ANDY

I did, didn't I?

There's another screw loose on the brackets holding the freezer to the wall of the truck.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - DAY

As the sun rises, Andy is now in the driver's seat while Ravi sleeps with King Demetrius curled up on his shoulder.

Andy spots a large road sign in the distance. It reads "Welcome to Oklahoma".

ANDY

Ravi.

Ravi is fast asleep.

ANDY (cont'd)

Raviiiiiiii.

No response.

Andy jerks the car to the right and then back to the left, causing Ravi to hit his head on the passenger side door.

RAVI

Ow!

ANDY

Oh hey you're up. Guess what?

Ravi rubs the tender spot on his scalp.

RAVI

What?

What could only be described as a fiendish smile crawls across Andy's face.

ANDY

We're almost there.

Ravi looks out the windshield and sees the Oklahoma sign. His eyes go wide.

RAVI

Don't...

Andy takes in a deep breath. The road sign creeps ever closer.

Ravi places King Demetrius on the dashboard and leans down towards him.

RAVI (cont'd)

(to KD)

I'm so sorry for what's about to happen.

The "Welcome to Oklahoma" road sign whizzes by.

ANDY

(atomic belting)

"OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOKLAHOMA, WHERE THE WIND COMES SWEEPIN' DOWN THE PLAIN."

RAVI
ANDY, THAT SHOW SUCKS!

ANDY
YOU SUCK! "AND THE WAVIN' WHEAT CAN
SURE SMELL SWEET WHEN THE WIND COMES
RIGHT BEHIND THE RAAAAAAAAIN!"

RAVI
ANDY!

ANDY
"OOOOOOKLAHOMA, EVERY NIGHT MY HONEY
LAMB AND I-"

RAVI
I have Hamilton memorized!

Andy immediately stops singing.

ANDY
You're bluffing.

Ravi takes a moment to prepare himself.

RAVI
(Lin-Manuel
Impression)
"HOW DOES A BYASTAHD OARPHAN, SON OF
A-"

ANDY
Holy shit, I believe you. You win.

Ravi grins at KD.

RAVI
(to KD)
"Immigrants-"

ANDY
There is a No-Lin policy in the
Deathtrap.

RAVI
(whispering)
"We get the job done."

ANDY
I'll hit you.

EXT. APOLLO CHINESE RESTAURANT - DAY

The ice cream truck pulls into the parking lot of a classic Midwest strip mall, outfitted with a convenience store, a locksmith business, a tanning salon, and a hole-in-the-wall Chinese restaurant with a sign reading "Apollo Chinese" in Joker font.

Andy and Ravi step out the truck, leaving KD inside to sunbathe on the dashboard.

RAVI

Are you sure about this place? Looks kinda dinky.

ANDY

The good Chinese food has to hide in plain sight so the white people don't find it.

RAVI

Ah, right.

INT. APOLLO CHINESE RESTAURANT - DAY

Ravi and Andy enter the restaurant where a hostess waits to seat them.

ANDY

<Table for two, please.>

Ravi recoils.

HOSTESS

<Right this way.>

Ravi taps Andy on the shoulder.

RAVI

Since when do you speak Mandarin?!

ANDY

Since always.

The hostess seats the two in a booth and provides menus.

RAVI

Like, the whole time, you've known Chinese?

ANDY

Spoke it at home.

RAVI
How did I not know this?

ANDY
<Never asked.>

Ravi gives him a perplexed stare.

ANDY (cont'd)
Never asked.

Ravi leans back in his seat and studies the menu.

RAVI
We never were at your house much.

ANDY
There's a reason for that.

RAVI
Do you... Wanna talk about it?

ANDY
Nah.

Beat.

RAVI
He'll be fine, right?

ANDY
King Demetrius?

RAVI
No, I mean...

ANDY
Yeah, as long as we don't leave the truck off for too long. Freezer's pretty well-insulated.

RAVI
Right. Cool.

Ravi rustles his menu around a little.

RAVI (cont'd)
How was he? Before things went bad, I mean.

ANDY
Uh, he was good. He was working in Dulmeade. We'd hang out a lot.
(MORE)

ANDY (cont'd)

He always talked about moving cross country, but he never got around to it.

RAVI

I think it finally just hit me that it's been 10 years.

ANDY

Yup, long time.

RAVI

I can barely keep track of what's happened since high school.

ANDY

Well, there was a plague.

RAVI

Yeah. That.

Andy flips another page on the menu.

ANDY

We talked about you a lot.

RAVI

You did?

ANDY

Of course we did, man. We wanted to know how you were this whole time.

RAVI

I guess I should've been around more.

ANDY

Yeah, you should have.

The hostess returns to the table.

HOSTESS

<Are you ready to order?>

ANDY

<I'll have the sweet & sour chicken.>

Andy points to Ravi.

RAVI

Um, shrimp fried rice please?

ANDY
<Also an English-Chinese dictionary.>

The hostess laughs.

HOSTESS
<I'm not sure if we have that, but I
can check.>

Andy flashes a smile back.

ANDY
<Thank you.>

RAVI
What was that about?

ANDY
<Not important, picklehead.>

Andy chuckles to himself.

EXT. APOLLO CHINESE RESTAURANT - LATER

Ravi and Andy finish up the remaining pieces of their food.
The hostess comes by and drops the check on the table.

HOSTESS
<How was everything?>

ANDY
<Delicious!>

The hostess leaves and Andy takes a look at the check.

RAVI
You know, come to think of it, we we
didn't hang out at my place much
either.

ANDY
Yeah, mostly Sebastian's mom's place.

RAVI
God, she was so mad that time we ate
those bake sale cookies.

ANDY
I had to apologize for that AGAIN
like a year ago. We were 9 and she
left them on the counter without a
note.

Ravi raises an eyebrow.

ANDY (cont'd)
If no one else will defend us, I
will!

Ravi's face sorrows.

RAVI
I can't imagine how she must be
feeling right now.

Andy checks his pockets as Ravi reminisces. He stands up abruptly.

ANDY
Just a second.

Andy darts out of the restaurant, leaving Ravi alone with the check. Ravi pushes his straw up and down in the glass, twirls the ice around a little. He looks around but Andy is nowhere to be seen.

ANDY (O.S.)
(whispering)
Ravi.

Ravi jumps in his seat. Andy is right behind his shoulder.

RAVI
Jesus! What?!

ANDY
Can you accompany me to the men's
room? I need your help with
something.

INT. MEN'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Andy and Ravi walk into the bathroom, outfitted with a single toilet and a single window to the outside. Andy bends slightly and interlocks his hands to make a foothold.

RAVI
What are you doing?

ANDY
Um... Dining and dashing.

RAVI
No, we're not.

Andy hangs his head.

ANDY
(murmuring)
I lost my wallet.

RAVI
What?

ANDY
I lost my wallet, ok! Now you get to
see me panicking!

RAVI
Oh, for the love of-

EXT. APOLLO CHINESE RESTAURANT - DAY

Ravi crawls out of the window on the side of the strip mall.
He plops onto the asphalt with a hard thud. He brushes
himself off and pulls Andy through.

The two dash over to the ice cream truck, run inside, and
take off.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Ravi and Andy look behind them to make sure no one chased
them out of the parking lot.

ANDY
Phew! That worked out way better than
I expected.

Just as Andy says this, we hear a sputter in the engine, and
the truck slows to a crawl in front of "Dilmington
Elementary".

ANDY (cont'd)
Outta gas. I think this might be my
divine punishment.

RAVI
Andy, what the hell are we supposed
to do? We're broke!

ANDY
We can retrace our steps.

RAVI
Sure, start up the engine, and we'll
drive back.

ANDY
Maybe I can call home and-

RAVI
And tell them what, exactly?

ANDY
I don't know!

Ravi sets King Demetrius down on a counter in the back of
the truck.

RAVI
I can't believe this. I literally
can't FUCKING believe this. I
should've held onto the money.

ANDY
I'm sorry.

RAVI
Fuck sorry, we are so FUCKED!

ANDY
Can you please not yell in front of
King Demetrius like that?

RAVI
ARE YOU KIDDING-?

EXT. DILMINGTON ELEMENTARY - CONTINUOUS

Rrrrrrrring! The school bells ring as students flood out the
front doors of Dilmington Elementary. A large group of kids
point at the ice cream truck and run towards it.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

ANDY
SO WHAT, YOU WANT ME TO PUT MY PHONE
ON A LEASH?!

RAVI
IF IT'LL HELP!

ANDY
I'll HELP YOU, MOTHERF-!

Knock-knock.

Andy and Ravi turn towards the service window on the ice cream truck. The kids from the school are all organized in a neat line, holding wads of cash in their hands.

Andy and Ravi shoot one another a silent glance. Ravi opens the freezer where Sebastian's body lies dormant on a bed of fudge pops and vanilla swirls.

Ravi gulps.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - LATER

The line is now depleted to the last kid. He hands Andy and Ravi a bill and they hand him back an ice cream bar wrapped in white plastic.

KID #3

Thanks!

Andy and Ravi nod and slowly close the service window without a word.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - DAY

Andy drives as Ravi stares blankly out the windshield. He looks down at the wad of cash in his hand and places it neatly in the glove box. He takes a long, deep breath through his nose.

RAVI

We never speak of this again.

ANDY

Yup.

Ravi turns on the radio to break the silence. "Sloop John B." by The Beach Boys plays as they get back on Route 66.

EXT. CADILLAC RANCH - AFTERNOON

The sun sets as Ravi and Andy walk up to 10 Cadillacs covered in spray paint and shoved face-down into the mud.

ANDY

This is it?

RAVI

Yup.

ANDY
Route 66. Greatest road trip in
America. This is what Texas has to
offer.

Ravi's nose scrunches up.

RAVI
You can smell the paint from here.

ANDY
That's not all you can smell.

Andy kicks an empty paint can with his foot. The two stand there in silence for a minute.

Andy spots a man in jeans and a 10 gallon hat admiring the cars. He notices the sawed-off shotgun in a holster at his hip, and hits Ravi in the shoulder to look.

ANDY (cont'd)
Dude, holy shit.

RAVI
Open-carry state, my guy.

ANDY
I should get one of those.

RAVI
Yeah, ok, we're getting the hell out
of Texas.

The red blooded American man throws a glass Coke bottle into the air, fires his shot gun at it, and with a "YEEEEEEE HAW!!" the glass shatters into a million pieces.

ANDY
But it looks fun.

RAVI
No.

Ravi drags Andy back to the truck.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - NIGHT

The truck is parked in another gas station parking lot. Inside, Ravi pets King Demetrius as he sits on the windshield. KD is looking a bit more lethargic than usual.

Andy enters through the passenger door carrying another armful of road snacks. He opens a bag of chips and feeds them to KD.

RAVI
He's not looking too good.

ANDY
He's fine. Probably just cold.

RAVI
I think he's getting sick from eating all this junk.

ANDY
Trust me, he'll be right as rain by the morning.

Smash cut to:

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - MORNING

King Demetrius is now an entirely different color. He can barely keep his eyes open.

Ravi and Andy look down on the little bearded dragon with concern.

ANDY
Aw, shit.

EXT. ROUTE 66 - DAY

The ice cream truck is parked on the shoulder just past the "Welcome to New Mexico" sign. Andy and Ravi stand in the sands a few yards from the truck. They're surrounded by small cacti, rocks, and bushes.

Ravi holds KD gently in his hands. He curls up to warm himself in the sun, but he still looks a little sickly.

RAVI
You want to say anything to him?

ANDY
King Demetrius, Lord of the Flies, you were the raddest little dude. I wish you nothing but success out there, in the wilds.

Ravi gives KD a little stroke on the head. He lowers him down to the ground and releases him.

RAVI
Go on, little guy.

KD scurries ahead a few feet, but turns around when he hears Andy singing.

Andy holds his phone above his head *Say Anything*-style as John Denver's "Country Roads, Take Me Home" plays through his phone speakers.

ANDY
*Almost heav'n
West Virginiaaaaaa
Blue Ridge Mountaaaains
Shenandoah Riverrrrr*

Ravi looks over surprised, but then smiles. KD turns back around and continues forwards.

ANDY (cont'd)
*Life is old there,
Older than the trees
Younger than the mountains-*

Ravi joins in.

ANDY & RAVI
(singing along)
*Growin' like a breeze
Country roooooooooads
Take me hooooooooome
To the plaaaaaaaace
I belooooooooong
West Virginiaaaaaa
Mountain mamaaaaa
Take me hooooooooome
Country R-*

A falcon swoops down from the sky and grabs King Demetrius.

Andy drops the phone.

The two freeze in stunned horror as "Country Roads" continues to play over the phone.

ANDY
What did you do?!

RAVI
What did *I* do?!

ANDY
You said he belongs in nature!

RAVI
He does!

Andy points to the spot where KD used to be.

ANDY
Well that's fucking nature, you
asshole!!

Andy walks around to the driver's side of the truck and
slams the door shut.

RAVI
Andy?

Andy starts the engine. Ravi runs up to open the passanger
side door just as the truck starts moving.

RAVI (cont'd)
ANDY!

He climbs in as the truck skids back onto Route 66 and roars
down the road.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - AFTERNOON

Ravi drives the truck while Andy broods and stares out the
window. Ravi glances over at Andy a few times, but he stays
silent.

ANDY
Fuck it.

RAVI
Fuck what?

Andy opens up the glove box.

ANDY
I was going to wait for when we head
back home. But... desperate times,
desperate measures.

Andy produces a gatorade bottle half full of brown liquid.

RAVI
Tea?

ANDY
Magical tea. Ayahuasca.

Andy waves his fingers at the word "magical".

RAVI
Where the hell did you get ayahuasca?

ANDY
I know a guy in Dulmeade who knows a guy who knows a guy who was roommates with a guy whose uncle runs one of those retreats in the desert.

RAVI
I don't know if I'm entirely comfortable with that.

ANDY
Look, you wanna be the only sober guy in the middle of the desert, in the middle of the night, between you, me, and a corpse?

Andy shakes the bottle in front of Ravi.

RAVI
I'm gonna regret this.

ANDY
(with a smile)
Probably!

EXT. NEW MEXICO DESERT - NIGHT

The ice cream truck drives through a few hundred feet of dirt, sand, and cacti until they reach a clearing. The moon shines down brilliantly overhead, casting the landscape in a cool blue glow.

Andy exits out the back of the truck and sips half the bottle. He walks a short distance from the truck and takes a seat on a rock.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - NIGHT

Ravi stares at the plastic bottle he holds in his hands. A drop of sweat runs down his forehead. He gulps.

RAVI
Bottoms up?

Ravi downs the rest of the liquid. He winces as he swallows, and gags a bit once it's down.

RAVI (cont'd)
Ugh, that's disgusting.

He recoils from the taste and then takes a moment to absorb his surroundings. He looks at his hands. Shuffles his feet. Feels his face. Nothing.

Ravi opens the back door of the truck and calls out to Andy.

RAVI (cont'd)
How long does it take to kick in?

ANDY
(distant)
Just give it a minute, damn!

Ravi closes the rear door and sits back down in the driver seat. He rests his arms on the steering wheel with his chin on top. He looks out the window at the cool moonlit night. The landscape is silent and empty.

RAVI
Alright, enough of this.

Ravi gets to his feet. Bad idea.

The interior of the truck appears to stretch around him as his vision starts to blur. The objects around him leave multicolored trails as he looks from his left to his right. He yelps as he falls backwards and steadies himself with the driver's seat.

Ravi's internal monologue begins to reverberate within his head.

RAVI (V.O.)
Woah! Alright, take it easy. Is that me? Why are my thoughts so loud?! Am I always like this??

He hears a skritch on the floor next to his foot. He looks down to see King Demetrius staring up at him.

RAVI (V.O.) (cont'd)
Oh no... I'm sorry, little guy.

Ravi kneels down to pet him, but KD is gone.

THUD!

A loud hit reverberates from the back of the truck. Ravi hallucinates the sound waves bouncing off the inner walls.

THUD!

Another one, and this time, Ravi knows where it came from.

The **freezer** starts to rattle as the lid creaks open. Four fingers curl over the lip of the freezer. A figure slowly rises as chilling smoke billows out onto the floor.

Through the fog, the figure twists and curls itself as it steps closer and closer towards Ravi. Ravi backs up against the parking brake of the ice cream truck. The figure approaches.

Ravi turns and shuts his eyes as a shadow casts over him. He closes them tighter as the figure pauses inches from his face.

Click.

The radio turns on and sweeps through the stations. It lands on the blompny opening notes of The Beatles' "When I'm 64". Ravi looks up to see SEBASTIAN (28, black curly mop of hair) beaming down at him with a huge goofy grin. He looks completely alive apart from his absent irises, pupils, and the icicles that cover him from head to foot.

He tap dances backwards and begins to sing.

SEBASTIAN
*When I get older, losing my hair
 Many years from now
 Will you still be sending me
 Valentines? Birthday greetings,
 bottle of wine?
 If I stay out 'till quarter to three,
 Will you lock the door?
 Will you still need me? Will you
 still feed me? When I'm sixty-four?*

Sebastian darts through the back door of the ice cream truck. Ravi scrambles to his feet and chases after him.

EXT. NEW MEXICO DESERT - CONTINUOUS

Andy is picking at his fingernails when he starts to hear the blompny brass notes coming from underground.

In front of him, a hand reaches up from the dirt and plants itself on the land.

Sebastian pulls himself up through the Earth as a rotting zombified corpse. He continues his song to Andy who screams and backs away in terror.

SEBASTIAN

*I could be handy, mending a fuse
When your lights have gone
You can knit a sweater by the
fireside
Sunday morning go for a ride*

Andy turns to run back towards the truck, but zombie Sebastian is already standing behind him.

SEBASTIAN (cont'd)

*Doing the garden, digging the weeds
Who could ask for more?
Will you still need me, will you
still feed me? When I'm sixty-four?*

Sebastian pushes Andy towards the ground. He falls backwards but he never hits the dirt.

INT. DULMEADE ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Andy falls through the floor to find himself standing up in his third grade teacher's room. He looks to his right and sees Ravi walking into a room through a door that disappears behind him.

The kids in the class sit at their desks writing, but one kid with a curly mop of hair draws out a rollercoaster as he sings.

YOUNG SEBASTIAN

*Every summer we can rent a cottage in
the isle of Wight, if it's not too
dear*

He looks up from his drawing at Ravi and Andy, now de-aged to match Sebastian. He turns it over to reveal the map of the "Greatest God Damn Road Trip of All God Damn Time".

YOUNG SEBASTIAN (cont'd)

*We shall scrimp and save
Grandchildren on your knee
Vera, Chuck, and Dave*

INT. SEBASTIAN'S BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Teenage Sebastian clamps his hands on both boys' shoulders as they look up to see their surroundings and bodies have changed once again.

SEBASTIAN

*Send me a postcard, drop me a line
Stating point of view*

Sebastian falls down onto the couch and picks up a controller. A feast of junk food and soda lays on the coffee table before them.

SEBASTIAN (cont'd)

*Indicate precisely what you mean to
say
Yours sincerely, wasting away*

Ravi and Andy sit down on the couch and pick up their own controllers. The lights from the TV flash across their faces.

SEBASTIAN (cont'd)

*Give me your answer, fill in a form
Mine forevermore*

They start laughing.

SEBASTIAN (cont'd)

*Will you still need me, will you
still feed me? When I'm sixty-?*

INT. BACKSTAGE - DAY

The song halts abruptly as Ravi and Andy find themselves backstage. Sebastian stands in front of them. He turns around, and for the first time, he looks completely normal. There's a twinkle in his eyes when he flashes a smile back at Ravi.

SEBASTIAN

This... is gonna be sick!

Ravi, sweating profusely, nods back as confidently as he can. He clutches the pair of drumsticks in his fist. He looks over to Andy who sneaks one last puff from a cigarette. He puts it out on the ground and checks to make sure no one saw. He has shorter hair and a noticeably pubescent mustache.

He catches Ravi's eye, and gives him a slap on the shoulder.

ANDY
We got this, killer.

The trio step out onto the stage. A banner hangs behind them reading "DULMEADE HIGH TALENT SHOW". Sebastian fumbles with the mic in front of his synthesizer. Andy drapes the guitar strap over his neck.

Ravi squeaks down into the drummer's seat.

He looks out into the crowd, but the lights blind him from making out much more than shadows.

Sebastian taps the mic.

SEBASTIAN
Uh, hello?

His voice echoes on the stage.

SEBASTIAN (cont'd)
Okie-dokie then. People! Are you
ready to rock?!

Slight clapping from the audience.

SEBASTIAN (cont'd)
I said! Are you ready?? To rock!!

Slightly louder clapping from the audience. One half-hearted "woo!"

Seemingly unphased, Sebastian returns to his synthesizer and plays the opening notes to "Mr. Roboto" by Styx.

The band of high school boys breaks out into what one could optimistically refer to as an okay rendition of "Mr. Roboto". Andy is fumbling some of his frets, Sebastian's annunciation is all over the place, and Ravi looks like a shell-shocked soldier behind his drum kit.

A few measures into the song, sweat drips down Ravi's arms and onto his hands. He loses grip of his sticks and they go flying in the air behind him. They clatter to the floor of the stage. Andy and Sebastian play sour notes as they're caught off-guard by the sudden lack of percussion.

The sticks are a few feet away from Ravi. He stands to his feet to retrieve them, but the stage seems to warp around him. He locks eyes with Sebastian and then with Andy.

ANDY
(whispering)
Dude, c'mon.

SEBASTIAN
(whispering)
It's ok. We can keep going.

Ravi looks back and forth between the two of them, frozen in place. He looks out at the nebulous audience, and then back at Andy one last time.

He turns and storms off the stage, leaving his kit, sticks, and friends behind.

Cut to black.

EXT. NEW MEXICO DESERT - MORNING

Andy and Ravi sleep, leaned up against the back of the truck. Andy's eyes are the first to flutter open.

ANDY
Oh god, what time is it?

Ravi gasps as he comes to and clutches his chest.

RAVI
I feel awful.

ANDY
Yeah, that might have been laced.

RAVI
I think I can taste my brain.

Andy checks his phone.

ANDY
Oh no.

RAVI
What?

Andy rushes to feet and opens the truck's backdoor.

RAVI (cont'd)
What is it?

Andy grimaces at the freezer.

It finally clicks for Ravi.

RAVI (cont'd)

Oh no.

Andy pinches his nose and lifts the lid of the freezer with his pinky finger. Andy gags at the smell and shuts the lid immediately. He motions for Ravi to enter the truck, but Ravi just shakes his head.

ANDY

Move your ass and roll down the windows.

Ravi groans as he climbs into the truck, covering his mouth and nose with his shirt.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - LATER

Around late afternoon, the truck cruises down the route, windows down. Ravi and Andy still look rather disheveled from their evening of sin and debauchery.

Andy, driving, gulps down a large cup of coffee and tosses it into a pile with the 3 others. He lights up a cigarette.

RAVI

That's a real one-two punch for your lungs and stomach.

ANDY

Narc.

Andy blows a puff out the window. Ravi looks toward the empty space on the dashboard where KD used to curl up.

RAVI

Um, by the way. I just wanted to say you were right. About King Demetrius. We could've taken him to a vet or something, but I insisted, and now he's...

ANDY

Gone.

RAVI

Yeah.

Andy takes another drag.

ANDY

You weren't the bird.

RAVI
No. But I could've listened to you.

ANDY
I appreciate that.

RAVI
Sure thing, man.

EXT. ROUTE 66 - EVENING

The truck passes by the sign for the State of Arizona. One of the hubcaps comes loose off a wheel.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Andy looks out the window as the hubcap clatters along the highway behind them.

ANDY
We'll be lucky if we make it there in one piece.

Ravi taps away at his phone.

RAVI
Huh?

ANDY
Nothing, just an observation.

RAVI
I'm sorry. I've got these work emails and my dad is breathing down my neck.

ANDY
Aren't you off-work?

RAVI
I'm not in the office, but I need to be available if people need me. Promotion coming up.

ANDY
That sucks.

RAVI
Beats bagging groceries.

ANDY
Nothing wrong with bagging groceries.

Andy purses his lips and shakes his head. He looks like he's about to burst.

ANDY (cont'd)
Why'd you leave Dulmeade, man?

Ravi turns off his phone.

RAVI
You know why I left.

ANDY
No, actually. No, I don't.

RAVI
There's nothing in Dulmeade. I needed a job after college. My parents moved away after graduation.

Andy takes a deep, fiery breath.

ANDY
The band could've worked.

RAVI
Ohhh no. Not this again.

ANDY
It could have!

RAVI
We were sixteen, dude. You gotta let that go.

ANDY
We booked a gig.

RAVI
One gig! At a farmer's market!

Andy clutches the steering wheel.

RAVI (cont'd)
What? Did you expect I was going to throw away my future to fuck around with you and Sebastian?

Ravi swallows his words.

RAVI (cont'd)
I'm sorry. That was out of line-

ANDY
I need a drink.

RAVI
Andy, please.

EXT. BEER & POOL BAR - CONTINUOUS

Andy lurches the steering wheel to the right and pulls over off the route towards a solitary wooden building illuminated by a harsh overhead garage light. There are a few cars in the parking lot with a row of motorcycles parked out front. An illuminated sign simply reads "BEER & POOL".

Andy parks the truck, pockets the keys, and storms out. Ravi clumsily unfastens his seatbelt and chases behind him.

RAVI
Andy, wait!

INT. BEER & POOL BAR - CONTINUOUS

"Stranglehold" by Ted Nugent blares over crummy speakers as Andy opens the door to this roadside watering hole. The interior is decorated as one would expect: old wooden furniture, beer signs, scarcely lit with incandescent light bulbs. The patrons of the bar are varying degrees of "yee-haw".

RAVI
I think we're gonna get hogtied.

ANDY
Shut up.

Andy saunters over to the bar, places a wad of cash on the table.

ANDY (cont'd)
A shot of whiskey and a pint of your
cheapest beer on draft.

The bartender, wiping down a glass, picks up the cash.

BARTENDER
Sure thing, pal, any preference on
the whiskey?

ANDY
Whatever's cheapest.

BARTENDER

Can do.

The bartender pours the whiskey and beer. Andy snatches them up and storms over to a booth without a word.

Ravi approaches the bar with more cash.

RAVI

Do you have any Sprite?

At the booth, Andy downs his shot of whiskey, shudders a little, and starts sipping on the beer. Ravi slowly approaches with his Sprite.

Ravi sits down and the two sit sip their drinks in silence.

ANDY

It's easy for you.

RAVI

What?

ANDY

When this is over, you go back, you get your promotion, you move on. I go back to Dulmeade alone.

RAVI

That's not- I could come visit soon?

Andy chuckles sardonically to himself.

ANDY

We don't have to lie to each other, man.

RAVI

I'm not.

Near the booth, two men enter the bar through the main doors. Andy's face goes white as a ghost.

RAVI (cont'd)

What is it?

Ravi turns around to see two men, one large and burly, one small and gangly. They're both white with shaved heads, accompanied by swastika tattoos on their arms.

Andy's fist clenches up on the table. He takes a huge gulp out of his drink while he stares down the Neo-Nazis.

They approach the bar, each footstep landing with a thud and the jingling of spurs and chains.

The large Neo-Nazi winds up his beefy, tatted arm...

And lands a warm handshake with the bartender.

BARTENDER
Gentlemen! How ya been?

NEO-NAZI #1
Can't complain, how bout you?

Andy slams his glass down on the table. He looks around the bar as he starts to breathe heavily.

ANDY
What the fuck is this.

RAVI
Hey. Hey! Keep it together man.

Andy's body is in full fight-or-flight, and he gave up on flight a long time ago.

NEO-NAZI #2
How's the family?

BARTENDER
Jessica is starting college! Freshman year.

NEO-NAZI #2
No kidding. Well, make sure those commie professors don't brainwash her too bad.

BARTENDER
(laughing)
Oh, don't you worry. She's a smart kid. She knows how this country really works.

Andy gets up out of the booth and marches over to the bar.

ANDY
Hey, listen-

Ravi jumps in between Andy and the Neo-Nazis.

RAVI
Hey! Hi! We were, um, wondering...

All eyes on Ravi. He starts sweating profusely.

RAVI (cont'd)
(nervously)
Where can a guy find a decent
mechanic around here, huh?

Beat.

BARTENDER
Ha! You're tellin' me.

NEO-NAZI #1
Amberton's Tire near Flagstaff is
pretty good.

NEO-NAZI #2
Don't go to Friedmann's Automotive.

BARTENDER
Why?

Neo-Nazi #2 flashes the bartender a look.

BARTENDER (cont'd)
Oh.

Ravi backs up, still blocking Andy, forcing him to back up
as well.

RAVI
Alright, great! That sounds great,
very good, thank you gentlemen for
your help. We'll just be on our way
now. Have a... swell weekend?

The bartender and neo-Nazis nod reservedly as Ravi grabs
Andy by the arm and drags him outside.

EXT. BEER & POOL BAR - CONTINUOUS

Blood pumping, head rushing, Andy makes his way with Ravi
towards the truck.

Thump-thump...

RAVI
(muffled)
Hey, maybe I should drive.

Andy gets into the driver's seat and starts the engine.

Thump-thump...

He looks into the rearview mirror and sees the line of motorcycles behind him. One sports a Confederate Flag.

Andy shifts into reverse.

Thump-thump...

He hits the gas.

The ice cream truck goes flying backwards into the row of motorcycles, resulting in a percussive **crash**.

The back door of the truck swings open. The final bracket holding the freezer to the wall comes loose. The freezer tips over, spilling **Sebastian's body** onto the floor.

The two boys look back from the front seat to see Sebastian's corpse out in the open.

RAVI (cont'd)
What did you do.

Andy gets up out of his seat and runs towards Sebastian.

ANDY
Help me!

RAVI
WHAT DID YOU JUST DO?!

Ravi gets up and tries to help Andy shove Sebastian back into the freezer.

The bartender, neo-Nazis, and other patrons exit the bar to investigate the commotion. They see their broken bikes laid down in front of an ice cream truck with its back door wide open. Inside the truck are two men and a **dead body**.

Andy slams the door shut and dives back into the driver's seat. He shifts gears and peels out of the parking lot back onto the route.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - NIGHT

The truck speeds down the highway in the fast lane, passing by multiple cars on the right. Ravi finishes reorienting the freezer and putting Sebastian in. He closes the lid and sits back down in the passenger seat.

RABI
I think we're in serious trouble.

ANDY
We're gonna be ok. They don't even
know our names.

RABI
They could've gotten the plate.

ANDY
They don't know what they saw.

RABI
What if they tell someone?

ANDY
Who's gonna believe a bunch of
fucking Nazis?

RABI
A lot of people.

The two sit in silence for a long while.

ANDY
You should get some sleep. We'll be
in California by the morning.

RABI
You shouldn't have done that, man.

Andy opens his mouth to respond, but nothing comes out. Ravi
turns over towards the window and rests his head.

Andy stares out the windshield at dark, lonely stretch of
road.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - DAY

The sunlight shines through the windshield onto Ravi's face.
He quints at the light until he can make out a cloudless
sky, a stretch of desert...

And a T-Rex?

EXT. CABAZON DINOSAURS - MORNING

Ravi steps out of the truck into a parking lot flanked by
two massive statues of a tyrannosaurus Rex and a
brontosaurus.

RAVI
Hey, Andy, where are we?

Ravi looks to the truck but the driver's seat is empty. He scans the parking lot until he sees Andy standing by himself a hundred feet away.

Ravi walks over to Andy whose back faces him. Before Ravi can say anything, Andy speaks up.

ANDY
I'm really sorry.

Andy turns around and hands Ravi his cellphone.

RAVI
Why do you have my phone?

ANDY
Just open it.

Ravi taps a few times to unlock the screen. We don't see what's on it, but his hands start shaking. He taps through a few menus and plays a voicemail.

RAVI'S MOM (V.O.)
Ravi! When you get this, call your father and I immediately. I hope you have an explanation for this.

He plays another voicemail.

ROGER (V.O.)
Hello Ravi. Due to recent events, we have decided to terminate your position, effective immediately. You may find your things packed up at the front desk. Goodbye.

Ravi looks up at Andy.

RAVI
I don't understand.

Andy hands him his phone with a video queued up.

The video shows a local news program.

ANCHOR
Breaking news on a developing story coming out of Wisconsin regarding a stolen body.
(MORE)

ANCHOR (cont'd)

The body of Sebastian Adams went missing from Dulmeade Mortuary last Friday and hadn't been seen again until a bizzare sighting at a local dive bar. Our reporter is on the scene.

The feed cuts to a reporter standing outside the Beer & Pool Bar, pointing a microphone at Neo-Nazi #1. The video is shot so that his swastika tattoo is just out of frame.

NEO-NAZI #1

..and then I run out and I see these two thugs shoving a body back into a freezer. I got the license plate and called my local police office.

REPORTER

With luck, your tip could lead to these two men being caught. What do you have to say to that?

NEO-NAZI #1

Well, I'm just trying to be an upstanding member of the community.

The feed cuts back to the anchor.

ANCHOR

This just in, with new eyewitness reports popping in all over the country of two men going by a similar description in an old ice cream truck. The police have named Ravi Verma and Andy Chen as potential suspects. Please call in with any information.

Ravi locks the phone screen and drops it on the ground.

ANDY

Ok, I know this looks really bad.

Ravi gets to his feet.

ANDY (cont'd)

But I think if we lay low, we can still finish the job, and-

RAVI

YOU! YOU RUINED MY FUCKING LIFE!

Ravi charges Andy and tackles him down onto the asphalt. The two tussle awkwardly but violently, rolling across the ground, shoving hands in faces, throwing punches.

ANDY
GET OFF ME!

RAVI
FUCK YOU!

More swings, more hits, more grunts as the men unceremoniously fight in an empty parking lot, looked down upon by two giant kitschy dinosaurs.

After the two wear themselves out, they're both left lying face-up and panting. They try to throw a few more soft punches and shoves, but they're too tuckered out.

Andy sits up, catches his breath, and shakes his head.

ANDY
You abandoned us.

Ravi sits up.

RAVI
The hell are you talking about?

ANDY
Us! Me! Sebastian! The Band!
Everything!!

RAVI
I really hate to be the one to break this to you but have you ever noticed Sebastian's stupid schemes have never worked once?! The band, the theme parks, this- whatever the fuck you two have dragged me into! "Drive my body across the country." WHO DOES THAT?!

Ravi takes a deep breath that he hasn't let out for ten years.

RAVI (cont'd)
I'm just trying to live a good life
the *right* way.

Andy gets to his feet. He looks over to the ice cream truck.

ANDY

You're never gonna get those years back with him, and I hope that eats you up inside.

RAVI

That's not fair.

ANDY

Fuck fair! You wanna know what's unfair?! My only two friends in this whole shitty, stupid, fucked-up world both left me behind.

Ravi rests his face in his hands.

ANDY (cont'd)

You can sit here and mope and say it's hopeless, but I'm gonna finish this. I'm gonna prove you wrong. You can help or not. I don't give a shit anymore.

RAVI

I'm coming with you.

Ravi stands up.

RAVI (cont'd)

Not for you. For him.

Andy shrugs while the two share a steely glare.

ANDY

Alright.

Andy holds out his hand.

ANDY (cont'd)

I'll need your phone.

Ravi hands over the phone. Andy grabs a rock and prepares to smash it.

RAVI

What the hell?! Stop!

Andy pauses, brandishing the rock above his head.

ANDY

These things are literally homing devices. We gotta go off-grid.

Ravi's shoulders slump.

RAVI
Ok, just... Let me call my parents
first.

ANDY
Are you sure?

RAVI
Yeah.

Andy hands the phone back.

ANDY
Your funeral.

Ravi walks over to the T-Rex and taps a number into the
phone. After a few rings, his dad picks up.

DAD (V.O.)
Ravi! Your mother and I have been
trying to call you-

RAVI
Dad, Dad, DAD! I know, I know. I'm
sorry.

DAD (V.O.)
What the *hell* do you think you're
doing?

Ravi takes a deep breath.

RAVI
I'm keeping a promise. You taught me
to do that.

DAD (V.O.)
You are throwing your life away for-

RAVI
Dad, I'm doing this. There's nothing
you can do about it.

DAD (V.O.)
Like hell there isn't! Ravi, we-

RAVI
Goodbye.

Ravi hangs up. He walks back over to Andy and hands the
phone.

RAVI (cont'd)

Do it.

Andy smashes both his phone and Ravi's with the rock. He tosses the phones into the bushes.

RAVI (cont'd)

Wait, how are we gonna navigate?

Beat.

ANDY

I'm gonna be honest, I totally hadn't thought of that.

Ravi puts his palms against his eyes and holds back a scream.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

Ravi and Andy walk up to the cashier wearing sunglasses and baseball caps with the tags still on them. They place an FM transmitter and a thick road map on the counter.

She scans the two items, and then looks up at the boys. The two lean over the counter, aiming the hat and glasses tags her way. She sighs and scans them in.

The two pay and bolt out the door.

CASHIER

One day, Barb, it'll all be over.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - NIGHT

Ravi struggles with a big paper map as Andy drives through the streets of Southern California. Andy looks back and forth between the road and a small device in his hand attached to the FM transmitter.

ANDY

Are we almost there?

RAVI

We're about a town away. Hey, can you keep your eyes on the road?!

ANDY

I'm queuing up the tunes.

RAVI
You broke our phones.

ANDY
I brought Sebastian's Zune as a
backup.

RAVI
Dude.

The truck comes to a red light. Across the intersection, a
cop car pulls up to the light.

ANDY
Oh no no no.

RAVI
Just don't do anything suspicious.

ANDY
We are in a bright pink ice cream
truck.

RAVI
I see your point.

The cop lights come on.

RAVI (cont'd)
Andy, don't do anything stup-

Andy hits the gas, turning to the right and careening down
the road. The cop follows behind, siren blaring. The Zune
flies across the dashboard and onto Ravi's lap, hitting play
on "Don't Let Me Die in America" by of Montreal.

RAVI (cont'd)
I said don't do anything stupid!

ANDY
Nope, you hadn't finished your
sentence yet!

RAVI
Oh, you jackass.

ANDY
Check the map! Where do I turn?

Ravi turns the map around in his hands and points toward a
spot.

RAVI
Ok we should be right here. Left on
El Fuego!

Andy yanks the steering wheel and the truck skids cleanly
around the bend.

RAVI (cont'd)
Where the hell did you learn to drive
like that?

ANDY
Vin Diesel.

They whizz by another cop whose lights go on. Two cruisers
now drive behind them with flashing lights. One of them
activates a megaphone.

COP CAR #1 (O.S.)
Pull over!

ANDY
Kiss my ass, pigs!

RAVI
Right here!

Andy makes a right. A third cop car now chases behind them.
Ravi looks out the window behind them.

RAVI (cont'd)
This might be it for us.

ANDY
Never tell me the odds!

RAVI
That doesn't apply here!!

Ravi studies the map dragging his finger across the paper.

ANDY
You gotta tell me where we're going
next.

RAVI
I think I have an idea. Left here!

To the left is a thin alleyway between buildings.

ANDY
What?

RAVI

Just turn!

Andy swerves the truck down into this narrow alleyway. A dumpster knocks off the left side mirror.

RAVI (cont'd)

Left again!

Down another thin alley. The unbroken brake light smashes up against a wall.

RAVI (cont'd)

Right!

Out onto a wider street.

RAVI (cont'd)

Right again!

There's nothing but a steep decline to their right.

RAVI (cont'd)

Just trust me!

Andy turns right and the truck rumbles down the hill, losing another hubcap in the process.

RAVI (cont'd)

Left! Stop under this bridge!

Andy pulls the truck down underneath a bridge. The ice cream cone atop the Dulmeade Deathtrap snaps off with a brilliant "crack" as Andy slams on the breaks and kills the engine. A few seconds later, the three cop cars whizz by on the bridge overhead.

The two let out deep sighs of relief.

ANDY

(panting)

Did you know 40% of homicides go unsolved? That means their success rate is 60%, that's like a D-.

RAVI

I am begging you to shut up right now.

ANDY

Are we close?

Ravi looks down at the map.

RAVI

Very.

EXT. BAXTER PARK REAR FENCE - NIGHT

Andy and Ravi slowly cruise around a fence located on the other side of the park's main entrance. They can see a few signs for employee entrances and maintenance sheds. There doesn't seem to be anyone around in the eerily quiet backlot.

Andy puts the truck in park.

ANDY

We made it.

RAVI

Almost.

Cut to:

Ravi and Andy stand at the fence, shovels in hand, with Sebastian limp between the two of them.

Andy tosses his shovel over the fence and climbs across.

ANDY

Lift him by the legs.

Ravi tosses his shovel over as well and wraps his arms around Sebastian's legs. He hoists him up in the air, but Sebastian's torso starts to lean backwards.

RAVI

Shit, shit, shit.

ANDY

Woah, steady now.

Ravi lunges forward, sending Sebastian's head crashing against the top metal pole of the fence. Andy winces.

ANDY (cont'd)

Ouch.

RAVI

(to Sebastian)

Sorry, bud.

Andy grabs Sebastian's arms as they hang loosely over the fence. Ravi pushes him up from the other side until his body flops down on the ground next to Andy.

ANDY
Something about this is really fucked
up.

RAVI
Everything about this is fucked up!

Ravi hops the fence with some assistance from Andy.

INT. BAXTER PARK - NIGHT

On the other side, they find themselves on a walkway that goes around the perimeter of the park behind all the show buildings and ride queues.

The two pick Sebastian up by his hands and feet and walk him down the path, tucking the shovels under their arms. They aren't moving very quickly. They set him down and catch their breath.

RAVI
Where are we going?

ANDY
Roads of America. That's his
favorite.

RAVI
Gonna take a wild guess we're nowhere
near it.

ANDY
No. It's on the other side of the
Hypercoaster.

A cough echoes around the corner. The two boys press themselves up against a wall as a man enters the walkway.

Baxter Park's friendly mascot, Baxter the Axolotl, turns to see Andy, Ravi, and Sebastian pinned up against the wall. His Baxter mascot helmet is removed and a joint hangs out of his mouth.

The two parties stare at each other for a beat until the Baxter mascot turns on his heels and runs in the other direction. Andy darts after him.

ANDY (cont'd)
I'm sorry about this!

Andy tackles him to the ground and lands a clean punch. He recoils his hand and shakes it.

ANDY (cont'd)
Oh shit, punches hurt both ways.

Ravi drags the poor park employee off to the side and places him on a nearby bench while Andy puts on the Baxter costume.

RAVI
(whispering)
What are you doing?!

ANDY
I'm going undercover.

Andy puts on the Baxter helmet and the two pick up Sebastian and their shovels to carry them further down the walkway. Again, they have to put him down after a few minutes.

RAVI
This isn't working. How are we going to get him there?

Andy looks over Ravi's shoulder.

ANDY
(muffled)
Ask and you shall receive.

Ravi turns around to see a wheelbarrow next to a pile of mulch bags.

They plop Sebastian and the shovels into the wheelbarrow just as they hear yelling behind them.

SECURITY GUARD
Hey!

A park security guard and the undressed Baxter mascot stand behind them down the walkway.

UNDRESSED MASCOT
(pointing)
That's them!

RAVI
Lose the helmet.

ANDY
Good call.

Andy tosses the helmet at the guard and the half-nude employee. He and Ravi each grab a handle on the wheelbarrow and sprint forward. Sebastian's limp corpse bounces up and down with the terrain.

ANDY (cont'd)
The eulogy!

RAVI
Eulogy?

ANDY
We gotta give him a eulogy!

RAVI
Shouldn't we do that when we bury
him?

ANDY
No, they'll hear us! We gotta do it
now!

Andy pulls his arm down inside the suit, reaches into his pants pocket, and pulls out Sebastian's Zune. He places one earbud in his ear and the other in Ravi's.

ANDY (cont'd)
And now, the favorite song as
requested by the deceased.

Andy hits play. We hear rustling and digital noise as recorded by a cheap, crappy microphone. Then, the sound of a garage door raising open.

A wave of recognition washes over Ravi's face.

RAVI
...is this?

ANDY
(eyes ahead)
Yup.

The opening MIDI notes of "Mamma Mia" play off a Casio keyboard. Then a bass line. And then, drums. Sebastian sings through the vocals along with the clumsy, charming little garage band comprised of his best friends.

As the two near the Hypercoaster, they round a corner revealing a beautiful view of the park, electric lights aglow.

ANDY (cont'd)
(panting)
Sebastian Adams was a weird kid. He
listened to music I didn't
understand. He spent his free time
designing roller coasters.
(MORE)

ANDY (cont'd)

He laughed at movies that weren't funny. And I don't think he ever took his head in the clouds. I envied that. I'll never forget him, and I'll always be his friend.

The two pass underneath the Hypercoaster as the ride and passengers scream overhead.

ANDY (cont'd)

Now you!

RAVI

Right! Right...

Ravi takes a moment to collect himself.

RAVI (cont'd)

Sebastian... I let you down. You were the kindest kid I ever met, and you deserved a better friend than me. If you're out there somewhere, I hope you know how much I miss you. I should've done the last 10 years differently. You were one of the best friends I ever had.

Ravi looks at Andy.

RAVI (cont'd)

And I miss you, too.

The lights of the park reflect off of Sebastian's glassy eyes. He is in his favorite place with his favorite people, listening to his favorite song.

Perhaps it's just the lighting, but you can almost make out a smile on his face.

ANDY

Are they still behind us?

Ravi looks over his shoulder to see the two men still in pursuit.

RAVI

Yeah. How are we gonna lose them?

Andy looks down to his right to see a thick faux jungle sprouting next to a concrete pathway.

ANDY

Follow me!

They turn towards the tree line and disappear through the brush. The terrain quickly becomes jagged and treacherous, causing the wheelbarrow to lurch up and down as they force their way through the plastic foliage.

Behind them, the security guard and the undressed mascot run into the jungle, searching through the canopy of fake trees. They jump at the sight and sound of an animatronic hippo roaring nearby. The security guard speaks into a walkie-talkie.

SECURITY GUARD

We got a 3-11 somewhere near the
River Safari. Keep your eyes peeled.

The two park employees walk through the jungle out of sight.

Ravi and Andy pull the wheelbarrow out from behind the hippo, where they had been hiding. It roars and spurts again.

ANDY

(to hippo)

I won't forget you.

RAVI

Come on!

The two quietly take the wheelbarrow out through the jungle towards the ride building for Roads of America. They wheel around the side behind some bushes. They park the wheelbarrow, grab their shovels, and start digging.

They dig in complete silence: *Chhk, sfft, chhk, sfft*.

Once the hole is deep enough, they pull Sebastian gently out of the wheelbarrow and rest him on the soft soil. His eyes are still dead and glassy, but he seems to be smiling ever so slightly. They pull his binder of ride designs from the wheelbarrow and place it on his chest with his arms crossing over.

The two hear jeers from the other side of the bushes and duck down. The two peer through the branches to see three young boys around age 10 huddled in front of the entrance.

BOY #1

I heard this ride rules!

BOY #2

It's not as good as Hypercoaster.

BOY #1
Hypercoaster doesn't even have any
robots, dummy.

BOY #3
Did our moms say to meet them at 9 or
10?

BOY #1
Beats me.

BOY #2
I don't even have a watch.

BOY #3
Ok, then stop wasting time and let's
go!

BOY #1
Onward!

BOY #2
Huzzah!

Boy #3 heads after the two of them but stops before he goes
in the ride entrance. He looks towards the bushes which
shake a little as he turns his head. He peers a bit closer.

BOY #1
Dude, c'mon!

Boy #3 runs into the ride.

Andy and Ravi, sitting, turn towards the grave behind them
and take a minute. Ravi gets up first and grabs his shovel.
He takes the first shovelful of dirt and suspends it over
the grave.

RAVI
(whispering)
Goodbye.

He throws the dirt into the grave and goes for another
shovelful. Andy stands up and joins him.

Before they know it, the job is done.

EXT. BAXTER PARK REAR FENCE - NIGHT

Andy sheds the mascot costume before he tosses his shovel
and hops the fence, helping Ravi over once more.

The pair walk in silence back to the ice cream truck, open the doors, and sit inside.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - NIGHT

Andy and Ravi sit in their seats without saying a word. Andy snuffles. Ravi frowns and swallows.

The two finally break into tears.

Heads in their hands, these boys weep over the loss of their dead friend. Among the crying, Ravi reaches an arm out over Andy's shoulder, and the two fall into one other, crying in each other's arms.

RAVI

I'm so sorry. I'm so sorry. I shouldn't have left, I-

ANDY

I shouldn't have put all that shit on you. I could've called you.

RAVI

I'm so sorry.

ANDY

I'm sorry.

RAVI

I miss him so much.

ANDY

I know. I know. I miss him too. I miss him too.

RAVI

I love you. I do. I'm sorry.

ANDY

It's ok, man. I love you, too.

The two slow their breathing and use their sleeves to wipe the tears out of their eyes.

Andy attempts a manly grunt to resettle himself. It's not very convincing.

ANDY (cont'd)

Ok. Let's go home.

Andy starts the engine.

EXT. BAXTER PARK REAR FENCE - CONTINUOUS

The engine roars to life, the headlights turn on....

The front axle of the truck fails completely, causing the truck to lean headfirst into the asphalt. The car alarm goes off as well as the ice cream jingle music.

A siren whoops. Flashing blue and red lights reflect off the pink scoop of de-coned fiberglass ice cream atop the Deathtrap.

ANDY

I hate this fucking truck.

INT. SANTA BELA COUNTY JAIL - MORNING

Andy and Ravi lean on one another, sleeping on a bench in the county jail. A police officer walks up and opens and cell, waking them both up.

POLICE OFFICER

Gentlemen, someone is here to see you.

The boys get off the bench and step outside of the cell. Walking down the hall towards them, dressed in black, is MARTHA ADAMS (early 60s, mop of curly black hair, fire in her eyes).

She stops just a few feet in front of them and looks between the two boys.

ANDY

Mrs. Adams, I-

Martha slaps Andy across the face. She slaps Ravi, too.

MARTHA

If I ever see either of you anywhere near my house, I'll fucking kill you. You understand?

They nod silently. She turns around and walks back towards the officer.

POLICE OFFICER

Would you like to press charges, ma'am?

MARTHA

No. Just let me give my son his funeral.

She walks out of the police station. Andy turns to the officer.

ANDY

So... are we free to go, or whatever?

POLICE OFFICER

Hardly.

INT. SANTA BELA COUNTY JAIL - LATER

Andy and Ravi sit on a bench in the cell, desperately trying to entertain themselves with whatever they have available. Ravi unties and reties his shoes while Andy picks at the corner of the bench.

The door to the jail slams open. We hear a flurry of footsteps walk into the building. The officer looks up from her desk to greet the unseen people entering.

POLICE OFFICER

Hello, how can we- Oh my.

VOICE #1 (O.S.)

Well, howdy, miss!

POLICE OFFICER

Mr. Baxter, I- it's an honor to meet you.

BAXTER (O.S.)

Oh, the pleasure's all mine.

From inside the cell, Andy and Ravi give one another a petrified look.

BAXTER (O.S.) (cont'd)

I'm here to see a couple of young men by the name of Andy and Ravi. Could you point me their way?

POLICE OFFICER

Absolutely, sir, they're right over here.

BAXTER (O.S.)

Lead the way, darling.

Around the corner comes a small army of men and women in expensive suits. At the helm, clomping down the hallway in \$3000 shoes, is RHODE BAXTER (late 70s, silver hair, a pinstripe suit and a glowing smile).

Baxter stands in front of the cell bars and beams at the two boys.

BAXTER
These them?

POLICE OFFICER
Yessir.

Baxter laughs a little.

BAXTER
My apologies. I just figured a couple of hard felons would be more intimidating, y'know?

Andy and Ravi stare back at Baxter with their tails between their legs.

BAXTER (cont'd)
You two are rather quiet, huh? No worries, let me do the talking.

Baxter waves a hand in the air.

BAXTER (cont'd)
Give us a minute, would you? Thank you, kindly.

The officer and team of suits exit the area, leaving the three men alone.

BAXTER (cont'd)
Boys, approach the bars and turn around for me, please.

ANDY
W-Why?

RAVI
Just do it.

Andy and Ravi walk up to the bars and turn around. Between their heads, Rhode Baxter leans in close and whispers in their ears.

BAXTER

(whispering)

Now you two little fuckwits listen up and listen good, ok? There is one singular fucking reason that I am not going to destroy both of your puny little lives and that is because we were *seconds* away from a PR catastrophe when you two dipshits attempted to pull off your cutesy caper. Do you even *realize* what this news could have done to park attendance?!

RAVI

(whispering)

Sir, we're very sorry-

BAXTER

(whispering)

No. Quiet. I am talking.

Baxter sighs and wipes his forehead.

BAXTER (cont'd)

(whispering)

We will not be pressing charges as long as you two keep your traps shut and never speak of this again.

Beat.

BAXTER (cont'd)

(whispering)

Well?

RAVI

You told us not to talk, sir.

BAXTER

Jesus Christ. Are we in agreement? You can answer that.

Andy turns around.

ANDY

Nah.

Baxter recoils and steps back from the bars. There's a fire in his eyes.

BAXTER

"Nah"?!

Andy crosses his arms and smirks. Ravi looks like he might vomit.

ANDY

We have the power here. You need us.

BAXTER

The FUCK do you think you're talking about. Who the fuck do you think you're talking to?!

ANDY

A guy who makes money from drawing a cartoon frog.

BAXTER

It's an AXOLOTL.

Andy leans in.

ANDY

Nobody knows what that is.

BAXTER

You little f-

RAVI

Andy, what the hell are you doing?

ANDY

(to Ravi)

Saving our asses.

(to Baxter)

So here's where my friend and I find ourselves: we are locked up, unemployed, and ready to spill this story to pretty much anybody who will pay us to talk about it.

Baxter's face drops.

ANDY (cont'd)

Sure, you'll sue us, but consider this: what do we have to lose, and what do you have to lose?

Baxter closes his eyes and takes a deep breath. He returns to his Uncle Rhode smile.

BAXTER

Well, boys, you don't get this far in show business without accepting when you're beat. What are your terms?

Ravi stands up, amazed.

RAVI
Um, jobs at the park?

ANDY
Head of Operations.

BAXTER
Absolutely not.

ANDY
Worth a shot.

RAVI
We'll take anything! And we'll keep quiet.

Baxter thinks on this for a minute, tapping his \$3k shoe on the prison floor.

BAXTER
Ok.

RAVI
Ok?

BAXTER
I suppose we have a deal.

The Uncle Rhode smile falls yet again.

BAXTER (cont'd)
But if an inkling of a smidge of a whisper of this gets out? I'll have your heads and I will personally freeze them myself underneath Baxter's Castle. Capiche?

The two boys nod. Baxter throws up a hand and snaps his fingers. One of the suits arrives in a hurry and frantically hands Baxter a binder covered in dirt.

BAXTER (cont'd)
You'll probably want this, too.

He slides the binder through the bars to Ravi.

RAVI
Oh. Thank you, sir.

BAXTER
Your friend drew these, huh?

RAVI

Yeah.

BAXTER

They're not bad. Not bad at all. I wish I could've met him instead of you two imbeciles.

ANDY

I think he'd appreciate that?

BAXTER

Sure. See you boys Monday.

Baxter turns heel and clomps toward the exit.

BAXTER (cont'd)

(to officer)

Let 'em go. They work for me.

OFFICER

Yes, sir, Unc- Mr. Baxter!

Baxter flashes a fake smile before he leaves the precinct.

Andy and Ravi watch the cell door clickity-clank open as they're freed. They step out.

RAVI

So what now?

ANDY

Wanna move to California?

Ravi smiles.

RAVI

Pinky-pinky.

INT. ROADS OF AMERICA - DAY

Dressed in park uniforms, Ravi and Andy ride through the serene dark ride. The ride vehicle resembles an old station wagon, and the two are surrounded by different sets representing the various biomes, cultures, and personalities of America.

As they pass by an animatronic of Bob Dylan singing "Blowin' in the Wind," we can see Sebastian in the seat behind them. The three boys ride out towards a painted sunset facade.

And the credits roll.