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**1 EXT. LOS ANGELES - NIGHT**

**1**

A young man, 20 years old, runs frantically through the streets of Los Angeles. He's dressed in mostly black, except for a backwards baseball hat. A surgical mask flutters in the air beside him, barely clinging to his ear.

This is TOM COWENS. He's in a lot of trouble.

Tom runs down a side street, climbs a fence, and disappears into the night

In the distance, sirens.

**2 EXT. THE HOUSE - MORNING**

**2**

We're in an upper middle class Los Angeles neighborhood. Everything is pristine. Exiting the house is ARNOLD COWENS, a 50 year old athletic-looking white man. He's wearing a nice suit and carrying a briefcase.

Arnold is about to open the car door when he hears a sound in the bushes.

Tom steps out. He's in rough shape.

ARNOLD

Tommy?

TOM

Hey Dad.

**3 INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER**

**3**

The inside of the house is immaculate. Tom's mother, LINDA, hands him a cup of coffee.

LINDA

You need anything to eat?

TOM

No. I'm ok.

LINDA

I'll make you something.

TOM

Thanks, Mom.

ARNOLD  
So what is it this time? You need  
money?

Tom shakes his head.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
You using again?

TOM  
I'm clean.

Arnold doesn't believe this.

TOM (cont'd)  
I...I just need you to know it wasn't  
my fault.

ARNOLD  
What wasn't your fault?

Tom starts to speak, but pauses.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
What did you do?

It takes a minute.

TOM  
I think I killed a cop.

ARNOLD  
You WHAT?

LINDA  
Let him talk.

TOM  
I was at the protests and it was  
peaceful, you know? We were marching  
and all of a sudden, there's tear  
gas. Then there's these cops just  
beating the...crap out of someone. I  
ran at them, just trying to get them  
to stop. The one cop pushed me and  
somehow my mask got ripped. I pushed  
him back and he fell onto something.  
And the next thing I saw was blood.

ARNOLD  
Jesus.

TOM  
I took off. I just ran as fast as I could. Someone grabbed my backpack, but I got away. I don't know how, but I did.

ARNOLD  
Do you know if the officer is dead?

TOM  
I didn't stick around to find out.

Linda tries to comfort him.

LINDA  
It wasn't your fault.

TOM  
It doesn't matter.

LINDA  
Arnold? Say something.

Arnold thinks for a minute.

ARNOLD  
He's right.

He talks through it, working through the scenarios out loud.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
He has 2 strikes. If the officer dies, they'll charge him with murder. Even if they Romero one away, that's 30 to life. If you can plea down to involuntary manslaughter, 12 to life.

TOM  
Great.

ARNOLD  
If he lives, it's Battery of a Peace Officer.

TOM  
Peace Officers don't use tear gas.

Arnold is annoyed by the interruption.

ARNOLD  
If this was a first offense, he does a year in county.  
(MORE)

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
 But with his record, they'll charge  
 him with a felony. And that's life.

TOM  
 He was was hurting someone.

Linda looks at Arnold with daggers.

ARNOLD  
 Son, I believe you still have some  
 clothes in your room. Why don't you  
 go put on something clean and your  
 Mother and I will discuss this  
 further.

Tom reluctantly gets up.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
 Quickly.

Once Tom has left the room, Linda turns to Arnold.

LINDA  
 My son is not going to jail for an  
 accident.

ARNOLD  
 He might.

LINDA  
 Then DO something.

Arnold thinks for a minute. He knows what he should do and  
 he knows what he has to do and they're very much at odds.

Linda's eyes are still DAGGERS.

LINDA (cont'd)  
 FIX this.

ARNOLD  
 Goddammit.  
 (beat)  
 Give me your keys.

Linda already has them in her hand.

Arnold picks up his phone.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
 Hi, Carol? It's Judge Cowens.  
 (beat)  
 Yes, good morning to you.  
 (MORE)

ARNOLD (cont'd)

(beat)

I need your to clear my docket. We've had a bit of an incident here.

(beat)

Oh, I'm sure it's nothing. Our gardener tested positive and, you know. An abundance of caution.

(beat)

Oh, I feel fine so far. A little bit of a sore throat, but I'm sure it's nothing. Just email me if you need anything else.

Linda hands him her keys. Arnold hangs up the phone.

ARNOLD (cont'd)

(yells)

Tommy! Let's go!

**4 INT. HOME OFFICE - CONTINUOUS**

**4**

Arnold walks into his home office and pulls a book off the shelf. It's hollow and inside is a roll of hundred dollar bills wrapped in an elastic band and a small, black notebook. He takes them both and puts them in his pocket.

**5 INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

**5**

Tom walks back in the kitchen and drinks the rest of his coffee.

ARNOLD

We're taking your Mom's car.

TOM

Ok...

ARNOLD

Make sure no one sees you.

LINDA

(to Tom)

Come here.

Tom walks over to his mother. She gives him a big hug. Tom is surprised by how hard she's hugging him.

LINDA (cont'd)

Listen to your father, ok?

TOM  
Ok?

LINDA  
I love you.

TOM  
Love you too, Mom.

As the hug ends, Linda is trying not to cry.

LINDA  
(to Arnold)  
Keep my baby safe.

He gives her a kiss.

Linda holds out her hand.

ARNOLD  
Right.

He pulls out his phone and puts it in her hand.

Arnold walks to the door.

LINDA  
Hey.

Arnold turns to look at Linda.

Then Linda very deliberately uses her index finger to push up her glasses.

Arnold smiles, then brushes his index finger across the side of his nose like Robert Redford in THE STING.

**6 INT. LINDA'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER**

**6**

Arnold drives Linda's Prius through the streets of Los Angeles while Tom lays down across the back seat under a blanket.

Arnold drives carefully.

ARNOLD  
Tommy, this is very important. Did anyone get a good look at you?

TOM  
I don't know.

ARNOLD  
What about your backpack?

TOM  
What about it?

ARNOLD  
Can they use it to ID you?

Tom doesn't want to say.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
Can they?

TOM  
...maybe.

Arnold nods.

**7 EXT. BUS STATION - MOMENTS LATER**

**7**

Arnold parks the Prius across the street from a bus station.

TOM  
You're putting me on a bus?

ARNOLD  
Give me your phone.

TOM  
Why?

ARNOLD  
Give me your phone.

Tom is unsure.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
For once in your life, will you do  
what I tell you?

Reluctantly, Tom hands him the phone. Arnold checks to see  
that it's on.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
Do you have any other electronics on  
you? Watch? FitBit? iPad? Pager?

TOM  
A pager? No.





TOM  
What about your phone?

ARNOLD  
Your Mother has it. I called in sick with COVID symptoms, so as far as anyone knows, I'm in quarantine at home with my phone.

**10 INT. LINDA'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER**

**10**

They're still driving through Los Angeles. Arnold has turned on the radio and is playing classical music.

They drive a little further until the music is interrupted by the news.

RADIO ANNOUNCER  
Tragic news this morning from the Black Lives Matter protests as a Police Officer was injured by a protester. According to a spokesman from the LAPD, the officer is in critical condition. The suspect fled the scene.

Arnold looks in the rear view mirror, eyebrows raised.

TOM  
I swear to god it was an accident.

They come to an intersection.

Arnold thinks for a few seconds. He can't turn his son in.

ARNOLD  
Ok. We'll get you out of here.

Arnold turns the car right.

**11 INT. LINDA'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER**

**11**

Arnold drives toward the on-ramp and heads North on 15.

TOM  
We're going North?

**12 EXT. THE ROAD - MOMENTS LATER**

**12**

They drive.

**13 EXT. INTERSTATE 15 - MORNING****13**

Tom is no longer laying down in the back seat, instead sitting in the rear passenger seat when the car goes past a cop sitting underneath a road sign.

Tom sees the cop just as they fly by.

He whips his head around and watches the cop car vanish in the distance. Arnold does the same thing with the rear view mirror.

**14 EXT. STORAGE FACILITY - LATER****14**

They're about an hour northeast of Los Angeles when Arnold pulls into a large storage facility. He parks outside one of the storage units and gets out of the car.

Tom gets out of the car and looks around. The place is deserted.

Arnold walks over to the unit and unlocks it.

He has a storage unit?

Inside is a Saab 900 Turbo.

What?

TOM  
Who's car is that?

ARNOLD  
Mine.

Arnold pops the hood and checks the oil.

TOM  
When did you buy that?

ARNOLD  
I've had this since...1995?

Arnold slams the hood back down, starts the car, then drives it out of the unit.

TOM  
You've got to be kidding me.

ARNOLD  
Put your Mother's car in there and shut the door.

TOM  
Can't they track her car?

ARNOLD  
Your Mother disabled that years ago.

Tom isn't sure he heard that correctly. His mother would have done what now?

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
Come on. Let's get out of here.

**15 INT. THE SAAB - LATER**

**15**

They're driving. Tom is in the front seat now.

They drive in silence for a bit.

TOM  
You had this when I was learning to drive?

ARNOLD  
Yes.

TOM  
And you never?

ARNOLD  
No.

Tom stares at him.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
It's complicated.

TOM  
What's that supposed to mean?

ARNOLD  
It's just...complicated.

Tom sits with that for a minute.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
There should be a map in the glove compartment.

Tom pulls a paper map out. It's been awkwardly folded and is rather old. On top of it is a DiscMan with a tape deck attachment.

TOM  
Is this a CD player?

ARNOLD  
If it still works.

TOM  
I've never seen one of these before.

We're so old.

ARNOLD  
We have one at home.

TOM  
We do?

ARNOLD  
Somewhere.

Tom has put the map down and is fiddling with the DiscMan.

TOM  
How does this work?

Tom starts looking around for more cables.

ARNOLD  
Do you want some help?

TOM  
No, I got it.

Tom untangles the lighter adapter and is surprised to see an actual lighter in the adapter slot. He pulls it out and looks at it.

TOM (cont'd)  
Is this a lighter?

ARNOLD  
It is.

TOM  
Why would you need a lighter?

Arnold hesitates.

Too long.

TOM (cont'd)  
You used to smoke?

ARNOLD  
No. Yes. Sort of.

TOM  
Sort of?

ARNOLD  
We'd smoke cloves every so often.  
(beat)  
It was the 90's.

Tom isn't buying it.

TOM  
Ok. Sure.

Tom starts looking around.

TOM (cont'd)  
Let's see...where would it be?

He notices an open seam in the sun visor, reaches his fingers in, fishes around, and pulls out a small bag.

TOM (cont'd)  
Jackpot. Cloves, huh?

Arnold bites his tongue.

TOM (cont'd)  
The Honorable Judge Arnold Cowens is a pothead. All those speeches about throwing my life away and hanging out with the wrong element and making good choices were bullshit.

ARNOLD  
Ok.

TOM  
How many people did the Honorable Judge Arnold Cowens sent to jail for smoking pot?

ARNOLD  
When I was your age, I would occasionally smoke a little pot. I did a lot of dumb things when I was your age and as for the other thing, it is not my job to determine what is and is not legal.

TOM  
Is this enough pot to give a kid like  
me a strike?

Arnold doesn't say anything.

TOM (cont'd)  
You ever give a kid like me a strike  
for this much pot?

ARNOLD  
Not for that much, no.

TOM  
But for more?

ARNOLD  
Yes.

TOM  
You ever give a black kid like me a  
strike for this much pot?

ARNOLD  
(emphatically)  
No.

TOM  
But your esteemed colleagues?

ARNOLD  
Yes.

Tom feels satisfied with this cross-examination.

TOM  
You gonna try to tell me it was  
medicinal? Did you have glaucoma?

ARNOLD  
No one had glaucoma in the 90s.

Tom opens the bag and takes a whiff.

TOM  
What else are you hiding?

ARNOLD  
You figure out that CD player yet?

Tom goes back to the Discman.

TOM  
There's no CD.

Arnold reaches behind the seat and pulls out a stack of CDs. He hands it to Tom, who starts looking through them.

TOM (cont'd)  
Ok, here we go.

He opens the case and pauses. It's a different CD.

TOM (cont'd)  
The hell?

Arnold looks over.

ARNOLD  
Yeah. That might be kind of a crap shoot.

Tom goes through the rest of the stack.

TOM  
Half of these are empty. And, yeah, none of them are the correct disc.

ARNOLD  
Sure.

TOM  
What kind of system is this?

ARNOLD  
It was a wild time.

TOM  
If you say so, Snoop.

**16 EXT. TRUCK STOP - DAY**

**16**

They pull into a truck stop and park in the parking lot. Arnold backs into the spot.

ARNOLD  
In the glove compartment, there should be a multi-tool.

Tom opens the glove compartment and pulls it out.



ARNOLD (cont'd)  
 The plates on this car are registered  
 in my name. If we get pulled over or  
 that shows up on a traffic camera,  
 we're screwed.

TOM  
 Sure

ARNOLD  
 So I'm going to stand guard and  
 you're going to swap plates with that  
 SAAB over there that looks like this  
 one.

TOM  
 You serious?

ARNOLD  
 Absolutely. Work fast.

**17 EXT. TRUCK STOP - MOMENTS LATER**

**17**

Tom swaps the plates with another car while Arnold leans  
 against the front bumper to stand guard, pretending to read  
 a newspaper. A family walks by and he smiles at them.

**18 INT. TRUCK STOP - MOMENTS LATER**

**18**

In the truck stop, Tom grabs some snacks and drinks while  
 Arnold looks for a map. They're both wearing a surgical  
 mask.

TOM  
 Don't we have a map?

ARNOLD  
 Ours might be a little out of date.

TOM  
 How out of date?

ARNOLD  
 Is this still New Spain?

TOM  
 God, you're old.

ARNOLD  
 Pick out a hat.

Arnold is at the register. He sees Tom's snacks and hat.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
I can get that.

TOM  
That's ok. I have money.

As Arnold pays, Tom discreetly grabs a burner phone from the display.

**19 EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY** **19**

Uncle Tupelo plays over the speakers as they drive across the desert.

**20 EXT. LAS VEGAS - DAY** **20**

They cruise through Las Vegas. Tom stares out the window. He's in awe.

ARNOLD  
Not happening.

**21 EXT. HIGHWAY - AFTERNOON** **21**

At the junction, they go East on I-70 to Denver.

TOM  
We're going to Denver?

ARNOLD  
Not exactly.

**22 EXT. HIGHWAY - LATE AFTERNOON** **22**

In Utah, Arnold takes the exit for Salina to get off the highway.

This gets Tom's attention.

**23 EXT. TOWN - MOMENTS LATER** **23**

They drive though Salina, Utah, past gas stations, past a Super 8, past a Quality Inn, past the Butch Cassidy Campground.

TOM  
You drove by like 4 hotels.

ARNOLD  
We can't go there.

TOM  
Why not?

ARNOLD  
A place like that, they're going to want a credit card. No, we need something a little more out of the way.

Arnold pulls out the map he bought at the gas station and scans it as he drives to the edge of town.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
There we go.

**24 EXT. THE EDGE OF TOWN - MOMENTS LATER 24**

Arnold turns down a side road.

**25 EXT. THE EDGE OF TOWN - MOMENTS LATER 25**

Arnold looks around to make sure there's no one around and turns the car onto a dirt road. There's no one anywhere nearby.

**26 EXT. THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE - EVENING 26**

Arnold has driven the car into a spot no one would be able to see from the road. They've been on dirt roads for too long. He pops the trunk and pulls out 2 sleeping bags.

He also pulls out a bag full of clothes.

TOM  
The hell?

ARNOLD  
This should work. Can you get that lantern out of the trunk?

TOM  
How old is this stuff?

ARNOLD  
 Pretty old. But I check the gear  
 every couple months, so it should be  
 fine.

TOM  
 You check it?

ARNOLD  
 Every couple months.

TOM  
 You drive to that storage facility  
 every couple months and check this  
 stuff?

ARNOLD  
 And the car.

TOM  
 I have never seen you go camping.

**27 EXT. THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE - NIGHT**

**27**

They've rolled out 2 sleeping bags next to a large rock and  
 have placed the lantern in a spot where it'll light the  
 camp, but will be impossible to see from more than 50 feet  
 away. There's a small fire.

Tom is annoyed.

ARNOLD  
 Why so glum?

TOM  
 Look around.

ARNOLD  
 You used to love Westerns. I thought  
 you'd get a kick out of this.

TOM  
 Not so much.  
 (beat)  
 Where are we?

ARNOLD  
 Utah.

TOM  
 Is that far enough?

ARNOLD  
Not even close.

TOM  
How is it so cold?

Arnold pokes at the fire for a few minutes.

ARNOLD  
I always meant to take you camping  
when you were younger, but it was so  
hard to find time.

TOM  
First I've heard of it.

ARNOLD  
I always meant to.  
(beat)  
None of your deadbeat friends ever  
took you to the desert to get high?

TOM  
I can get your stash out of the car.

ARNOLD  
Fair enough.  
(beat)  
I used to go all the time.

TOM  
When?

ARNOLD  
Before.

TOM  
Before what?

Arnold lets that hang in the air.

ARNOLD  
You've never been this far from LA,  
have you?

TOM  
Nope.

ARNOLD  
Come with me.

TOM  
Why?

ARNOLD

Just get up.

Arnold grabs the lantern. They get up and walk away from the fire and into the darkness.

A hundred or so feet from the fire, Arnold turns the lantern off. Suddenly they can see the stars. All of the stars.

TOM

Woah.

They stare at them for a few seconds in silence.

TOM (cont'd)

Dad?

ARNOLD

Yeah?

TOM

I'm scared.

ARNOLD

I am too.

**28 EXT. THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE - FIRST LIGHT**

**28**

First light and Arnold is already up. He gently kicks Tom's sleeping bag.

ARNOLD

Rise and shine, camper!

TOM

Uhhhhh.

Arnold already has coffee going over the embers of last night's fire.

He's changed into a shirt from his bag. It's a VERY 90's t-shirt, as are all the clothes in his bag.

TOM (cont'd)

What are you wearing?

ARNOLD

Pretty cool, huh?

Tom's expression says otherwise.

## 29 EXT. THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE - MOMENTS LATER

29

Tom staggers over to the car where Arnold has spread the map out on the hood. He's trying to drink the coffee Arnold made, but he has to spit out the grounds. It's terrible.

ARNOLD  
Campfire coffee was never my specialty.

TOM  
You think?

Arnold points at the map.

ARNOLD  
So we're here.  
(he points)  
Outside the Border Zone, which is crucial.

TOM  
The what now?

ARNOLD  
Within 100 miles of the Border, the Border Patrol can stop you for no reason. For guys like us, it's usually not an issue, but still it's a risk we don't need.

TOM  
Sure.

ARNOLD  
If we covered our tracks correctly, I don't see why they would be looking for us outside of this this area.  
(he circles)  
But we don't know for sure. We can't outrun them, but the further we get, the more area they have to cover and the harder we are to find. Needle in a haystack.

TOM  
Where are we going?

ARNOLD  
That's a different map.

TOM  
Ok?

ARNOLD  
If we can get through the Rockies,  
then we'll be in good shape.

TOM  
What if we didn't cover our tracks?

Arnold looks him in the eye.

ARNOLD  
Nothing good.

**30 EXT. GAS STATION - MORNING**

**30**

In the town they drove through the night before, Tom pumps gas. He's wearing a mask, sunglasses, and his hat pulled low over his eyes. Arnold comes out of the store with some coffee and a paper bag.

ARNOLD  
More coffee?

TOM  
God, yes.

**31 INT. THE SAAB - MOMENTS LATER**

**31**

They're both eating breakfast sandwiches and drinking coffee. Tom opens a copy of the L.A. Times.

TOM  
They had the Times?

ARNOLD  
Lucky us.

Tom starts looking through the front section.

TOM  
Here it is.  
(beat)  
Shit.

ARNOLD  
Is he dead?

TOM  
Critical condition.

ARNOLD  
What does it say?



TOM

Um...

(reads)

They haven't arrested anyone. They don't comment on on-going investigations.

ARNOLD

Sure.

TOM

(still reading)

There is a Person of Interest in the case. Uh, "We're here to investigate and follow the evidence wherever it leads. It's not on us to be judge and jury."

ARNOLD

That last part? I'm pretty sure that was for me.

(beat)

Ok then.

TOM

Is that bad?

ARNOLD

Yeah.

**32 EXT. PARKING LOT - MORNING**

**32**

Tom swaps out the plates again on the car while Arnold pretends to read the paper and acts as a lookout.

**33 EXT. HIGHWAY - MOMENTS LATER**

**33**

They get back on I-70 East and drive through a National Forest.

**34 EXT. COLORADO BORDER - AFTERNOON**

**34**

They cross the border into Colorado. Tom takes a long look at Arnold.

**35 EXT. DENVER - EVENING**

**35**

The approach the skyline of Denver.

ARNOLD  
Hey, you got any snacks left?

TOM  
Maybe.

Tom digs around and without thinking, pulls the phone out of the bag. It's still in the packaging.

ARNOLD  
What's that?

TOM  
Nothing.

ARNOLD  
You bought a phone? Are you insane?

TOM  
It's a burner. It's clean.

ARNOLD  
I know what a burner is.

TOM  
So chill.

ARNOLD  
(firmly)  
Hey.

TOM  
I paid cash. I had a mask on. I haven't activated it. It's a flip phone. There's nothing to track. Chill.

Arnold thinks for a minute. That all checks out.

TOM (cont'd)  
I know you've got this all worked out, but maybe--just maybe--we *might* get in a spot where we need a phone.

Arnold knows Tom is right.

ARNOLD  
I'm not thrilled about it.

TOM  
Well I wasn't thrilled about you putting my phone on a bus.  
(MORE)

TOM (cont'd)

(beat)

Do you want me to throw it out the window?

ARNOLD

No. But run these things by me, ok? Believe it or not, we're in this together.

Tom looks at him.

ARNOLD (cont'd)

At this point, you aren't going to jail alone.

Tom can see how serious Arnold is about that.

TOM

Ok. Yeah.

**36 EXT. CAMPGROUND - NIGHT**

**36**

They've found a campground on the other side of Denver.

Tom pokes at the fire while Arnold sleeps.

He looks at Arnold to make sure he's asleep and starts to open the phone. The plastic is really loud, but he gets it open.

He reads the directions by the light of the fire.

Eventually, he thinks better of it and sticks it in his bag.

**37 EXT. CAMPGROUND - DAYBREAK**

**37**

Arnold is up and tinkering under the hood as Tom starts to wake up.

**38 EXT. KANSAS BORDER - DAY**

**38**

They cross the border into Kansas. Tom looks at Arnold.

ARNOLD

Don't worry. I'm not leaving you in Kansas.

TOM

Thank god.

**39 EXT. LAWRENCE EXIT - DAY 39**

Arnold takes the exit for the University of Kansas.

**40 INT. LAWRENCE - MOMENTS LATER 40**

They drive through the University. Normally busy, it's quiet with school shut down. A ghost town.

**41 EXT. CHECKERS FOODS - DAY 41**

They pull into the parking lot of Checkers Foods, an independent grocery store in Lawrence.

ARNOLD

This is going to sound weird, but this is my favorite grocery stores.

TOM

When were you in Kansas?

ARNOLD

A long time ago.

TOM

What, with Lewis and Clark?

Arnold glares at Tom as they put on their masks.

**42 INT. CHECKERS - MOMENTS LATER 42**

Inside the store, Tom is picking out snacks when he spots a cute girl walking down an aisle.

He follows her, but from a distance and entirely from behind.

She goes behind a display and when she turns, he can only see her eyes peeking. She notices him and you can see the flirting smile in her eyes.

She keeps walking and he follows.

At a corner, she slows and looks back at him as she walks into the next aisle. For the first time, he can see that she isn't wearing a mask. His hopes fall.

He turns around and Arnold is 20 feet behind him.

ARNOLD  
Pretty girl.

Tom's pause says everything.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
Yeah. Tough break.

**43 INT. THE SAAB - LATER**

**43**

They're driving back to the highway.

ARNOLD  
I never asked if you're seeing anyone  
back home.

TOM  
Never in my life have you asked me  
that.

ARNOLD  
I don't think that's true.

Tom looks at him, pointedly.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
Never?

TOM  
Never.

ARNOLD  
I didn't want to...interfere.  
(beat)  
Did you want me to ask?

TOM  
No.  
(beat)  
Maybe. I don't know

ARNOLD  
So...are you?

Tom pauses.

TOM  
Yeah. I think so.

Arnold starts to talk, but doesn't.

TOM (cont'd)  
I ghosted my girlfriend, didn't I?

ARNOLD  
When did you last talk to her?

TOM  
Before the protest.

ARNOLD  
Yeah. You ghosted her. How serious was it?

TOM  
It was going pretty well.  
(beat)  
I can't call her. Is there a way I can call her?

Arnold thinks for a second.

ARNOLD  
Do you have her phone number?

TOM  
It's on my phone.  
(beat)  
I could have written it down.

Arnold starts to talk, but Tom cuts him off.

TOM (cont'd)  
You could have told me you were putting my phone on a bus and I could have written some phone numbers down.

ARNOLD  
Sorry.

TOM  
You can tell me things before you do them. I'm not 12 anymore. I'm not going to fuck up your plan. I'm not an idiot.  
(beat)  
You're not going to believe this, but I could even help.

ARNOLD  
I never said you were an idiot.

TOM

Whatever this is, wherever you're taking me, you get to go back to your life. You get to go back to the house and Mom and "Your Honor" and I get what?

Arnold takes a minute. His answer is quiet and firm.

ARNOLD

You get to stay out of jail.

Tom doesn't have an answer for that.

ARNOLD (cont'd)

I'm sorry about your girlfriend. I should have trusted you. What's her name?

TOM

Abby.

ARNOLD

Do you want to tell me about her?

TOM

Not really.

(beat)

She works for an advocacy group. She's really smart--way smarter than me, but also...gorgeous.

ARNOLD

I wish I could have met her.

TOM

Yeah, well.

ARNOLD

How do kids these days even communicate? Facebook?

TOM

I'm just on Facebook for Mom.

(beat)

What are you gonna do, track her down when you get home and tell her what happened?

ARNOLD

Is that something you want me to do?

TOM

I don't know.

They drive for a bit.

ARNOLD

If it's meant to be, you guys will find a way to be together.

Tom looks skeptical.

ARNOLD (cont'd)

At least, that's what your Mother would say.

There's a moment where Arnold remembers something.

ARNOLD (cont'd)

You know, my father used to tell me that women are like exits on the interstate. If you miss one, there's another one right down the road. I guess what I'm saying is, I'm sure there will be plenty of women at this pig farm I'm taking you to.

TOM

That's not helpful.

ARNOLD

They have their own slaughterhouse and everything. You could find yourself a woman who literally brings home the bacon.

TOM

God.

ARNOLD

She'll come home and be like, "Oh Tommy, can you clean the dried blood from under my fingernails?"

TOM

I take it back. Don't talk to me about women.

They drive for a few seconds.

ARNOLD

How about I buy you lunch to make up for it?



TOM  
Actual lunch?

44 INT. TAVERN - DAY

44

They've stopped at a small tavern for lunch. It's an out-of-the-way place with a couple of beers on tap and a group of regulars and no one will ask any questions because no one gives a shit.

They walk in, masks on.

WAITRESS  
Just sit anywhere.

Some of the tables have chairs on top of them as the tavern tries to create some social distancing. They pick one in the corner where they can see the whole room.

The Waitress brings them some menus.

WAITRESS (cont'd)  
Can I get you guys something to drink?

TOM  
Uh, water?

ARNOLD  
Can I get a beer? I don't have my ID on me, but I promise I'm very old.

WAITRESS  
Sure thing.

ARNOLD  
Whatever you have will be great.

WAITRESS  
I'll be back with your drinks.

She walks away.

TOM  
What if she wanted your ID?

ARNOLD  
Places like this don't ID old men like me.

Just then, the Waitress startles them.

WAITRESS  
I'm so sorry. I need your name and  
phone number.

Tom and Arnold look at each other, trying to not panic.

ARNOLD  
I'm sorry, what?

WAITRESS  
It's a COVID thing. In case someone  
tests positive, we have to be able to  
call you so you know to get tested.

ARNOLD  
Oh, sure. Both of us?

WAITRESS  
Just one of you is fine.

ARNOLD  
It's, uh, Russell. William Russell.

WAITRESS  
And your phone number?

ARNOLD  
Right. It's 867. Fifty three. Zero  
nine.

WAITRESS  
Is that an 816 number?

ARNOLD  
Sure is.

WAITRESS  
Great!

She walks away.

ARNOLD  
There's some benefit to being old, I  
guess.

TOM  
What do you mean?

ARNOLD  
The phone number.

TOM  
What?

ARNOLD  
It's from a song.

Tom has no idea what he's talking about.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
Great.

TOM  
Ok? So will you tell me now where  
we're going?

Arnold pulls the map out of his back pocket.

TOM (cont'd)  
You brought the map?

ARNOLD  
Of course.

Arnold finds the US map on the back and points at it. We  
don't see where he's pointing.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
We're going here.

Tom didn't expect that.

TOM  
Really?

Arnold nods.

TOM (cont'd)  
That...kind of makes sense?

ARNOLD  
Your old man isn't so dumb.

**45 INT. TAVERN - LATER**

**45**

They have drinks and food. Arnold has folded his mask and  
placed it next to his plate. Tom has pulled his down around  
his neck.

ARNOLD  
You know, I met your Mom at a place  
like this. She was a bartender.

TOM  
Mom was a bartender?

ARNOLD

She would do the thing where you hold the bottle up really high and pour.

TOM

Mom?

ARNOLD

Your Mom is a lot cooler than you think.

(beat)

I was supposed to be driving through, but I kept coming up with excuses to stay. Took me a week to convince her to come with me.

TOM

Wait, a week?

ARNOLD

I wasn't as persuasive and charming as I am now. But oh was her father mad...

Arnold stops talking after seeing a change in expression from Tom, who is staring at the TV over Arnold's shoulder.

ARNOLD (cont'd)

What is it?

TOM

We...should go.

Arnold looks over his shoulder to see coverage of the incident on the TV. On the screen is a blurry picture of Tom from the protest.

ARNOLD

Ok, uh. Don't panic. Very calmly, put your mask back on.

Tom puts his mask on. Arnold lowers his voice.

ARNOLD (cont'd)

Did anyone notice?

TOM

I don't think so.

ARNOLD

Don't look directly at anyone.

Tom tries to disappear into the table.

TOM  
We should go.

ARNOLD  
Ok. I'll pay and we'll leave. Don't  
panic.

Arnold puts his mask on, stands up and walks over to the  
bar.

WAITRESS  
Is everything ok?

ARNOLD  
Everything is great. I got a call  
from work and have to leave.

WAITRESS  
Oh, do you want to take it to go?

ARNOLD  
Oh no, that's ok.

He takes out a couple of 20's.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
Will 60 cover it?

30 will cover it.

WAITRESS  
Let me get you some change.

ARNOLD  
Nope. That's for you.

The Waitress is very surprised.

WAITRESS  
Why thank you. Come visit us again  
real soon.

ARNOLD  
We will.

Arnold turns around and Tom is already gone.

46 EXT. TAVERN - CONTINUOUS

46

Tom is trying his best not to freak out.

TOM  
Why the fuck am I on Fox News?

ARNOLD  
Because it's Fox News.

TOM  
Every redneck in the country is going to be looking for me.

ARNOLD  
What did it say?

TOM  
I don't know. I saw my picture and I freaked the fuck out.

ARNOLD  
I don't think anyone in there noticed. But just in case, let's get in the car.

TOM  
Ok. Yes.

ARNOLD  
We'll get some distance and then we'll figure it out. Ok?

TOM  
Ok.

**47 INT. THE SAAB - LATER**

**47**

They're on the move. Tom still has his mask on and is slouching low in his seat, trying to be invisible. He's not handling his new-found celebrity well.

ARNOLD  
What if we find a motel for the night and we get a better idea of how bad it is?

TOM  
They'll want a credit card. Didn't you say that?

ARNOLD  
They will. But we can try. Or we can camp out again and keep going. Up to you.

Tom thinks for a minute.

TOM  
You think you can get one?

**48 EXT. MOTEL - EVENING**

**48**

They pull into the parking lot of a motel. This is not the Ritz, but the sign says they have HBO and ESPN.

ARNOLD  
Wait here.

TOM  
No problem.

**49 INT. MOTEL LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER**

**49**

Arnold walks in the lobby. There's an employee wearing a shirt that's too big for him and a badly tied tie. His crooked name tag reads MARK. A poor man's Martin Starr.

MARK  
Welcome to Quality Inn. Do you have a reservation?

Arnold leans in to read the name tag.

ARNOLD  
Good evening, Mark. I don't have a reservation, but I am interested in a room.

MARK  
Smoking or non-smoking?

ARNOLD  
Non-smoking, if you can. I just have one problem. I left my wallet at home, so I don't have a credit card or my ID.

MARK  
I can't give you a room without a credit card.

ARNOLD  
Oh, I can pay for it.

He reaches into his pocket and pulls out the roll of 100 dollar bills.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
 What do the rooms go for at a nice  
 place like this? \$100? \$150?

MARK  
 Uh...

ARNOLD  
 Would \$200 cover it?

MARK  
 It's \$90.

ARNOLD  
 If I just give you this, will that  
 work?

Arnold hands Mark \$200.

MARK  
 Uh...

ARNOLD  
 I don't want to get anyone into any  
 trouble. I've been driving all day  
 and I could really just use a room  
 for the night.

MARK  
 Uh...

ARNOLD  
 I'm assuming you're the man in charge  
 here, Mark.

MARK  
 I mean, yeah.

Arnold peels off another bill and holds it in front of Mark.

ARNOLD  
 Like I said, I'm just looking for a  
 place to sleep.

**50 EXT. MOTEL - MOMENTS LATER**

**50**

Tom is slouched as low as he can in the passenger's seat,  
 when there's a knock on the window. It scares the Hell out  
 of him. Arnold is holding a key.

ARNOLD  
 Get your shit.



## 51 INT. MOTEL - NIGHT

51

This is not a nice motel room. But it's better than sleeping on the ground. There's 2 twin beds and a remote control that's attached to the wall by a wire.

They're sharing a pizza and flipping through TV channels.

TV REPORTER

The LAPD has released a photo of the suspect in Monday's killing of Police Officer Terry Sandler. Police are looking for this man, seen fleeing the scene. He's considered to be armed and extremely dangerous. Anyone with information is asked to contact the FBI.

The picture is blurry, but it's only a matter of time before they figure out who it is.

Arnold turns off the TV.

ARNOLD

Ok.

TOM

The FBI?

ARNOLD

It's a cop, so it's automatically Federal.

TOM

Fuuuuck. I killed him.

ARNOLD

Looks that way.

TOM

I killed someone.

ARNOLD

You ok?

TOM

I didn't mean to kill him. I just wanted him to stop hitting people. Why don't they show the rest of it? There has to be video.

ARNOLD

Maybe there's no good angle of it?

TOM  
Come on. There's cameras everywhere.  
(beat)  
You believe me right?

Arnold pauses.

TOM (cont'd)  
You don't believe me?

ARNOLD  
I do. You wouldn't do that. You're a  
good kid.

TOM  
You don't believe me.

Arnold pauses.

ARNOLD  
It doesn't matter. You're my son and  
I love you. We will fix this.

TOM  
How?

ARNOLD  
I will fix this.

TOM  
Are you going to call one of your  
judge friends? Hey, my son is on the  
run in Kansas or wherever the fuck we  
are but he's totally innocent and you  
should let him off the hook. He's a  
good kid, I swear.

ARNOLD  
That wouldn't work.

TOM  
No shit.

ARNOLD  
It doesn't help that you have a  
record.

TOM  
For smoking pot!

ARNOLD  
Doesn't matter. These cases never go  
well for people like you.

TOM  
People like me?

ARNOLD  
You killed a cop. You have priors and you killed a cop. That's all anyone will care about. You could be Mother Theresa. It wouldn't matter.

TOM  
Great

ARNOLD  
You're going to need overwhelming evidence that you were 100% innocent. And if you're a protester at an anti-cop protest? In this Administration? Good luck.

TOM  
So I'm fucked?

ARNOLD  
If you get caught, you are absolutely fucked. We both are.  
(beat)  
We might need some help.

**52 EXT. ST. LOUIS - DAY 52**

They drive through St. Louis.

**53 EXT. ST. LOUIS NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY 53**

Off the highway now, they park in a residential area. Arnold checks the numbers against his notebook.

Tom looks confused.

**54 EXT. BEN'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER 54**

They ring the doorbell.

ARNOLD  
Last I checked, he still lived here.

TOM  
Last you checked?

The door opens. BRENT, a black kid a little younger than Tom opens it.

BRENT  
Can I help you?

ARNOLD  
Is your Grandfather home?

A deep voice comes from inside the house.

BEN  
Who's there?

BRENT  
Some white people looking for you,  
Gramps.

BEN  
Tell them to go away!

ARNOLD  
(yells)  
We drove a really long way to see  
you, you old asshole.

BEN  
What the?

There's a racket in the other room. Ben hobbles into view. He's an old black man in his 70s and his cane is doing a lot of the work.

Ben walks to the doorway. He studies Arnold for a bit.

BEN (cont'd)  
Dale?

Dale? Did he say Dale?

ARNOLD  
Been a long time.

BEN  
What are you standing outside for?  
Get in here!

Arnold follows Ben inside.

TOM  
Did you say "Dale"?

## 55 INT. BEN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

55

They walk into the living room. It's a modest place that's clearly been lived in for decades. There's photos everywhere. And not just family photos. There's photos of Ben with Fred Shuttlesworth, with Obama, with John Lewis, with MLK, with Malcolm X.

Tom follows, perplexed.

BEN

I sure was sorry to hear about your Daddy.

ARNOLD

Thank you.

BEN

He was one hell of a soldier. Saved my ass more than once.

ARNOLD

Mine too.

BEN

What's it been, 20 years?

ARNOLD

25.

BEN

Twenty five. Shit.  
(beat)  
This is your boy?

ARNOLD

Yup. Tommy.

Tom is thrown.

TOM

Hi.

Ben shakes his hand.

BEN

Nice to meet you, Tommy.

TOM

Nice to meet you.

BEN  
Dale, how'd your Daddy go, if you  
don't mind me asking?

He definitely said "Dale".

ARNOLD  
I really don't know.  
(beat)  
The last time I saw him, I was with  
you.

This takes both of them back for a minute.

BEN  
25 years.

ARNOLD  
Yeah.

BEN  
Well you seem to be doing better than  
the last time I saw you. Looks like  
you've done well for yourself.

ARNOLD  
Really a big change, huh?

BEN  
Still dress like a fool, I see.

ARNOLD  
This is vintage now.

Ben laughs.

**56 INT. BEN'S HOUSE - LATER**

**56**

Arnold and Tom are seated on the couch, while Ben has gone  
back to his chair.

BEN  
What are you doing these days?

ARNOLD  
I'm a judge in Los Angeles.

Ben is surprised.

BEN  
A judge? That scared kid Verl brought  
here is a judge?

ARNOLD  
Hard to believe.

TOM  
I'm sorry, what's happening?

BEN  
So, what brings you back here? You didn't come all this way for a good meal.

ARNOLD  
Sadly, no.  
(beat)  
Tommy here is in a little bit of trouble.

BEN  
Like father, like son?

ARNOLD  
You could say that.

Ben turns to Tom.

BEN  
Ok, son. Tell me your troubles.

Tom looks at Arnold, who nods.

No one seems to be answering his Dale question.

TOM  
Um...ok. Well a couple of days ago, I was at a Black Lives Matter protest in Los Angeles. I was protesting. On the good side.

Ben nods.

TOM (cont'd)  
It escalated. The police were hurting someone. I tried to stop them and, uh, one of the cops died.

(beat)  
I killed him.

BRENT  
It's all over Twitter.

TOM  
Great.

ARNOLD  
We saw some of the coverage on TV.

Brent hands his phone to Ben. He put his glasses on, looks at the phone and then at Tom.

BEN  
Son, you're in the shit.

TOM  
Yeah.

Ben turns back to Arnold.

BEN  
You been switching plates?

ARNOLD  
Every couple of hours. I put his phone on a bus.

BEN  
Good.  
(to Tom)  
You listen to your Father.

TOM  
Ok.

BEN  
I want to know why you took it upon yourself to attack a cop.

Tom is confused.

TOM  
It was the right thing to do?

BEN  
They don't need an excuse to start killing colored folks and you gave them one.

Tom doesn't say anything.

BEN (cont'd)  
And where are you now? A thousand miles away with your Daddy. A white boy on a road trip. Going camping in the woods.  
(beat)  
Was this your first protest?



TOM  
No.

BEN  
You saw Brother Floyd get murdered  
and you had to do something.

TOM  
Yeah.

BEN  
We appreciate it. We really do. But I  
wonder how you managed to get to the  
front lines.

TOM  
I...?

BEN  
Brent, how many white people were at  
the march today?

BRENT  
Thousands.

BEN  
Where were they?

BRENT  
Right up front.

BEN  
Right up front.  
(to Tom)  
Anyone put you up front?

TOM  
No.

BEN  
Organizer didn't say, "hey Tommy, why  
don't you come up here?"

TOM  
No.

BEN  
"We could use your help. Maybe they  
won't crack open the skulls of a  
bunch of white people."

TOM  
No.

BEN  
You just found yourself up there?

TOM  
Yeah.

BEN  
You skipped to the front of the line?

Tom doesn't know what to say.

BEN (cont'd)  
You see injustice and you want to help. That's good. But it isn't your fight. We don't need any more tourists.

(beat)  
Because when shit goes sideways, you can just leave. You have that luxury.

(beat)  
We've been in this fight for hundreds of years and we'll be in it for hundreds more.

TOM  
With all respect, there's more awareness now.

BEN  
There's always awareness. You're familiar with Selma?

TOM  
Yeah.

BEN  
That was the biggest story in the world. 55 years ago. I was there. And look at us now.

(beat)  
You think white people don't know racism is still a problem?

TOM  
No.

BEN  
They know, but it doesn't impact them, so they don't care.

(beat)  
The media will focus on this for a while, but they'll get bored. There's a pandemic. It's an Election Year.

(MORE)

BEN (cont'd)

The protests be off the news pretty soon.

(beat)

But YOU won't. A dead cop is a martyr forever. More colored people will die this week as they defend one of their own.

Ben leans in.

BEN (cont'd)

They will NEVER stop looking for you.

TOM

(under his breath)

Fuck.

BEN

Fuck is right. But you're lucky. Your Daddy knows what to do. Listen to him.

But how?

TOM

I will.

BEN

I hope so, because I imagine he wants to go back to the life he created.

ARNOLD

I would like that.

Food is ready. Everyone moves to the dining room.

Ben motions for Arnold to hang back. He waits until they're alone.

BEN

Your Daddy would be proud of you.

ARNOLD

Thanks.

BEN

Can I ask you something?

ARNOLD

You want to know if he's guilty.

He does.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
I don't know. I did what I had to do  
and I'll figure out the rest later.

Ben puts a hand on Arnold's shoulder.

BEN  
Your Daddy said the same thing.

Arnold nods.

BEN (cont'd)  
Now let's get some real food in you.  
What have you two been living on?

ARNOLD  
You don't want to know.

**57 EXT. BEN'S HOUSE - DAY**

**57**

They're back in the car.

TOM  
Why does he think your name is Dale?

Arnold takes a deep breath.

ARNOLD  
Because it is.

TOM  
What?

ARNOLD  
There's something you don't know.

TOM  
Ok...

ARNOLD  
A long time ago, I got into some  
trouble. A lot of trouble.

Tom is intrigued.

TOM  
You? The Honorable Arnold Cowens?

ARNOLD  
Yeah. And your Grandfather got me out  
of it and gave me a chance to start  
over. If he hadn't, I'd be in jail.

WTF?

Arnold starts and stops.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
You certainly wouldn't be here.

TOM  
You should be in jail?

ARNOLD  
I did something stupid. Really stupid. I should have gone to jail. But my father drove me out of trouble and he bought me this car and he...he saved my life.

Tom doesn't know what to say.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
I know. It's a lot.

TOM  
What'd you do?

ARNOLD  
I...killed someone. It's not important.

TOM  
I think it is.

ARNOLD  
I was in a bar and this asshole started something. We had a history, him and I. So I took a swing at him.  
(beat)  
The bartender threw me out, but I was too drunk to drive, so I waited outside for him.  
(beat)  
When he came out, I ambushed him. After a minute, we were wrestling on the ground. He pulled a knife out of his boot and...it was him or me, you know?

Arnold takes a second. He hasn't told anyone this story in a long time and it's bringing back a lot of memories.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
When I got home, my father was  
already up and getting ready for  
work. He took care of the rest.

TOM  
So...

ARNOLD  
Yeah.

TOM  
When I showed up at the house?

ARNOLD  
I didn't really have a choice.

TOM  
And then you changed your name?

ARNOLD  
I figured the easiest way to get out  
of trouble was to create a new  
identity, so that's what I did.  
(beat)  
It was an easy decision. There's no  
statute of limitations for murder. So  
I started over.

TOM  
Does Mom know?

ARNOLD  
I could never hide that from your  
Mom. She wishes I had picked a  
different name, but she won't admit  
it.

TOM  
I'm with her on that.

ARNOLD  
Well, I had my reasons.  
(beat)  
I guess you had to find out  
eventually.

They're driving.

TOM  
So, uh, how'd you do it?

Arnold reaches for the pocket in the seat behind Tom. He grabs out an old, dog-eared paperback and hands it to him.

TOM (cont'd)  
Where'd you find this?

ARNOLD  
A used bookstore in...Montana?

TOM  
And it worked?

ARNOLD  
So the short version is you don't fake a driver's license. The security is always improving, right? You fake a birth certificate and use that to get a real Social Security Number. Then it's pretty easy.

TOM  
That works?

ARNOLD  
It used to. Now? With all the computers? I don't know.

Tom flips through the book for a minute.

TOM  
How did you get into law school?

Arnold doesn't say anything.

TOM (cont'd)  
Did you fake your transcript?

Arnold doesn't say anything.

Tom smells a rat.

TOM (cont'd)  
You told me you went to UCLA. You said, "Tommy, you gotta work hard in school and then you can go to UCLA like I did."

Arnold answers cautiously.

ARNOLD  
 I did say that.  
 (beat)  
 It just isn't true.

Tom nods a little and then he starts to laugh.

TOM  
 Then where did you, what did you do?

ARNOLD  
 Ok, so someone told me that a college  
 will always check your transcripts,  
 but not many people check your  
 resume. Then I found out that  
 California doesn't require a law  
 degree, so I studied for the bar exam  
 and I passed.  
 (beat)  
 And then I put UCLA on my resume.

TOM  
 That's...

ARNOLD  
 Honestly, it's never come up. No one  
 has ever asked.

**59 EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - AFTERNOON**

**59**

Arnold comes out of a convenience store with a full paper bag.

**60 INT. THE SAAB - CONTINUOUS**

**60**

He gets in the car and pulls a muffin out of the bag, sticks a candle in it, and lights it.

ARNOLD  
 Happy birthday.

TOM  
 I thought you forgot.

ARNOLD  
 Of course I didn't forget. And since  
 today is your 21st birthday, let me  
 be the one to buy your first beer.

He pulls a Colt 45 out of the bag.



TOM  
What is that?

ARNOLD  
Family tradition.

TOM  
You know I've had a beer before?

ARNOLD  
Give me this one thing.

Arnold starts the car and drives toward the road.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
Well?

TOM  
What?

ARNOLD  
Drink up.

TOM  
We're...driving.

ARNOLD  
I'm driving. You're a fugitive from justice. This is the least of your worries.

TOM  
Fair enough.

He cracks the beer open and takes a sip, discretely.

ARNOLD  
Just...keep it low. Act like you've done this before.

They merge into traffic.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
You know, a buddy of mine used to say that when you turn 21, you go out drinking with your friends. When you turn 22, you drink at home. Alone.

TOM  
That's depressing.

ARNOLD

Yeah. I don't know what this is supposed to be. You kind of fucked this up completely.

TOM

You're 49. So maybe when you're 49 you buy your son a beer while on the run from the FBI.

ARNOLD

Maybe.

(beat)

I'm 53, but maybe.

TOM

You're 53?

ARNOLD

I am.

TOM

Mom is planning your 50th birthday party.

ARNOLD

One benefit of creating a new identity is you can make yourself a little bit younger.

Tom laughs.

TOM

Does Mom know?

ARNOLD

Of course she knows. I gave up on trying to fool your mother years ago. She always figures it out. She's one step ahead of us. Always.

(beat)

Plus, she was there.

A moment passes.

TOM

In high school, I used to...well this one time I snuck a girl into my room.

ARNOLD

One time?

TOM

Ok, a number of times. Did she know about that?

ARNOLD

Half the neighborhood knew. You were not subtle.

TOM

I thought we were pretty quiet.

ARNOLD

You left the ladder up against the side of the house.

TOM

Did I? Shit.

**61 EXT. GAS STATION - DAY**

**61**

Tom is wearing a mask, sunglasses, and a hat pulled low as he pumps gas. It's one of the newer type of gas stations with a TV over the pumps. He's not really paying attention to it at first.

TV REPORTER

Breaking news from Los Angeles this morning as Police have a suspect in the case of the Officer who was killed by a protester several days ago. Police are looking for Thomas Cowens, shown here in a recent photo.

Tom turns and stares at the screen. There he is.

TOM

Oh fuck me.

The pump shuts off and it startles him. He puts the nozzle back. Just then Arnold comes around the corner, a newspaper and 2 coffees in hand. It was on the TV inside too.

ARNOLD

Hey, let's get on the road.

TOM

Yeah.

They get in the car quickly.

## 62 INT. THE SAAB - MOMENTS LATER

62

Arnold scans the radio stations until he finds the right station.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

The FBI is looking for Cowens, who is considered armed and extremely dangerous. Cowens is the son of Federal Judge Arnold Cowens, a 2015 appointee of President Obama. Judge Cowens is currently in self-quarantine with COVID-19 symptoms and offered his condolences to Officer Sandler's family via email.

ARNOLD

So your Mother has that under control.

TOM

What if they figure out you're not there?

ARNOLD

She's using my phone, so they can see that it's in the house. In theory they don't have any reason to think otherwise.

TOM

Will that work?

ARNOLD

It has to.

(beat)

If they get a warrant to search the house, it's Game Over. We're counting on your mother to protect us and honestly that's probably our best bet.

TOM

What do we do?

ARNOLD

We keep driving.

TOM

Ok.

ARNOLD

We're 60 hours in, which is enough time to get pretty much anywhere in the country, so we have to assume they're looking everywhere.

TOM

Great.

ARNOLD

Everywhere is good. We can't out-run this, but we can stay off their radar.

TOM

How did you do it?

ARNOLD

It was a lot easier when I did it. And there wasn't a nation-wide manhunt for me.

Arnold thinks for a minute.

ARNOLD (cont'd)

Here's the thing. I've been telling you what to do because I've done this before, but it's so different. There weren't cameras at toll booths or random cell phone videos or anything like that.

(beat)

I can handle everything once we get there. But you're a smart kid. We should figure out how to get there together.

TOM

Can we get a hotel room?

ARNOLD

It's...

TOM

I know it's risky. But you did it once. I'd like to know what we're up against.

ARNOLD

Ok.

CUT TO:

## 63 INT. SLEAZY HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

63

It's pretty gross.

Arnold and Tom have gotten fast food and are splitting a 6-pack of beers. They're intently looking through stations for news.

Click. Click. Click.

Finally they find something.

TV REPORTER

We're live outside the house of Judge Arnold Cowens, who's son is accused of killing Police Officer Terry Sandler at a Black Lives Matter protest.

TOM

Jesus. They're outside the house?

TV REPORTER

Judge Cowens is in quarantine with COVID-19 symptoms, but his wife was able to talk to us.

Linda is wearing a mask and is standing at least 10 feet away from the reporters, who have set up a microphone.

LINDA

(On TV)

My husband is not able to get out of bed at this time, but he and I are just shocked by the idea that Tommy could have done this. We really hope that wherever he is, he knows that we love him and we want him to be safe and, baby, please turn yourself in so you can prove to everyone you didn't do this.

(beat)

Arnold and I haven't spoken to Tommy since Christmas. Our primary concern right now is his safety.

On the video, Linda pushes her glasses up with her index finger. Arnold does the finger nose swipe thing.

ARNOLD

There it is.

TOM  
What?

ARNOLD  
See how she pushed her glasses up?

TOM  
No?

ARNOLD  
Well she did. That's the signal that everything is under control.

TOM  
You two have a signal?

ARNOLD  
Of course.

TOM  
When did you set up a signal?

ARNOLD  
1995.

TOM  
You guys are so weird.

ARNOLD  
If she takes her glasses off...well let's hope she doesn't take her glasses off.

TOM  
Glasses off and we're fucked. Got it.

Arnold nods.

ARNOLD  
You'd be surprised by your Mother. When I met her, she was the drummer for a ska band.

TOM  
She told me she was in marching band.

ARNOLD  
In college, yeah. And then she was in a ska band. They were pretty good. And man, she was stunning on stage. You should have seen her.

He drums a little on the bed.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
It was incredibly sexy.

TOM  
No. Gross.

ARNOLD  
That's what's saving your ass right now.

**64 EXT. GAS STATION - MORNING**

**64**

It's early and they're getting gas. Tom is pumping.

Suddenly he gets a tickle in his throat that turns into a hacking cough. He takes his mask off to spit out the phlegm.

It takes him a minute to put it back on. Too long.

Just then, Arnold comes out of the gas station with coffees. He sees Tom without a mask and keeps his distance.

ARNOLD  
What are you doing?

TOM  
I...

ARNOLD  
Put your mask on!

Tom puts the mask on quickly.

**65 INT. THE SAAB - MOMENTS LATER**

**65**

Back in the car.

ARNOLD  
What the fuck was that?

TOM  
I had to cough and I wasn't thinking.

ARNOLD  
SYou ok?

TOM  
Yeah. I just had something caught in my throat.



ARNOLD

You sure?

He put the back of his hand on Tom's forehead.

ARNOLD (cont'd)

You don't feel warm.

TOM

I'm fine. Really.

**66 INT. THE SAAB - DAY**

**66**

They're driving down the highway when the car starts to make some noises under the hood.

ARNOLD

Oh no no no no. Come on!

Smoke starts to come out of the hood. Arnold pulls the car over to the side of the road and pops the hood. More smoke.

TOM

What is it?

ARNOLD

Give me a minute.

**67 EXT. THE SAAB - MOMENTS LATER**

**67**

Arnold has the hood up and is poking around.

ARNOLD

Can you get my tools from the trunk?

Tom pops the trunk and is getting the tool box out when a Police Cruiser slows to a stop behind the car.

TOM

Oh fuck me.

He thinks about running, but instead takes his mask out of his back pocket and slips it over his face before facing the cruiser. He nods to the cruiser, slides a wrench up his sleeve and heads toward the front of the car.

TOM (cont'd)

Uh...Dad?

ARNOLD

What?

TOM

Cops.

Arnold peeks around the edge of the hood. He grabs his mask and puts it on.

ARNOLD

Stay calm.

The Officer approaches the car. He is not wearing a mask.

COP

You folks having a little car trouble?

ARNOLD

Yeah, this old broad is being difficult.

COP

Aren't they always?

The Cop looks at the engine.

COP (cont'd)

What do you think it is?

ARNOLD

It looks like this hose is broken. Should be an easy enough fix. Is there a good local garage you'd recommend? We're passing through.

COP

Oh, Ralph's is probably your best bet.

(beat)

Where you guys headed?

ARNOLD

We're just off to do some camping. The quarantine was getting to us, so we thought we'd just get in the car and see where it led us. Spend a couple nights under the stars.

COP

Where are you coming from?

ARNOLD

Kansas.

COP  
And this is your car?

ARNOLD  
Yes, sir.

The Cop looks suspicious.

TOM  
Dad, the plates.

ARNOLD  
Oh, the plates. We moved from Chicago a couple of weeks ago and can't get new plates, because nothing's open. I don't even know what day it is!

The Cop looks at Arnold, trying to size him up.

Tom slowly slides the wrench down his sleeve.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
So Ralph's is our best bet?

The Cop doesn't say anything at first. He's looking around.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
We're going to need a new hose.

COP  
Ralph's is really your best bet. You know what, let me give him a call and see if he can't come out here and help you guys out. Don't you go anywhere.

ARNOLD  
Wish we could!

The Cop goes back to the cruiser. They both relax.

TOM  
That was close.

ARNOLD  
Now we just hope that no one noticed we took their plates.

TOM  
Do you think he's checking them?

ARNOLD  
Absolutely.

Tom looks around. There's nowhere to run.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
He's got no reason to suspect anything.

The Cop comes back.

COP  
Alright, well I called Ralph for you. He should have someone here within an hour.

ARNOLD  
Thank you so much, Officer.

TOM  
Thank you.

COP  
If you guys could do me a favor and just wait inside your car.

ARNOLD  
Of course.

COP  
Do you need someone to wait with you?

ARNOLD  
No, I think we'll be fine. I'm sure you have better things to do.

COP  
You have a good day.

ARNOLD  
Thanks again, Officer.

The Cop walks away. They relax.

**68 EXT. RALPH'S - DAY**

**68**

The car is fixed. They drive away and head toward the interstate.

ARNOLD  
I think we should get new plates, just to be safe.

Tom pulls a plate from under his shirt.

TOM  
Way ahead of you.

ARNOLD  
Good boy. I think we're going to get  
off the highway for a bit.

**69 EXT. ROAD - AFTERNOON 69**

Arnold turns off the highway.

**70 EXT. ROAD - MOMENTS LATER 70**

He drives the car down a series of back roads.

**71 EXT. ROAD - MOMENTS LATER 71**

He turns down a dirt road.

**72 EXT. CLYDE'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER 72**

They approach a house at the end of a dirt road somewhere deep in Pennsylvtucky. There's a Confederate Flag hanging off the porch and a Trump 2020 flag next to it.

TOM  
The fuck?

Standing on the porch is a middle aged man in jeans and a flannel shirt. This is CLYDE. He's holding a shotgun.

Arnold parks the car.

ARNOLD  
We're here.

TOM  
What do you mean we're here?

ARNOLD  
Grab your bag.

TOM  
Is this where you're taking me?

Arnold gets out of the car.

Clyde racks his shotgun.

CLYDE  
You better have a good reason to be  
on my property!

ARNOLD  
I'm looking for Clyde Dunbar!

Clyde fires a warning shot into the air.

Tom gets as low as he can in the car.

TOM  
Jesus fucking Christ.

CLYDE  
Who wants to know?

ARNOLD  
I'm here to tell you about Bernie  
Sanders and convert you to Democratic  
Socialism!

Arnold takes a couple steps toward the house.

CLYDE  
Well it fucking took you long enough.

Tom is confused.

Clyde sets down the shotgun and walks toward Arnold.

CLYDE (cont'd)  
I thought you'd be here yesterday.

ARNOLD  
How the hell are you?

They embrace in a big hug.

CLYDE  
Where's your boy?

ARNOLD  
Hiding in the car.  
(To Tom)  
Tommy! Get out here!

Tom slowly gets out of the car.

CLYDE  
A celebrity! I just saw you on the  
TV. You feeling ok?

TOM

Yeah?

Tom walks over to his father.

CLYDE

Well, don't be a stranger. Come on in.

TOM

(quietly)

Who the fuck is this guy?

ARNOLD

Don't worry about it. Come on.

Arnold follows Clyde. Tom is worried about it.

**73 INT. CLYDE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

**73**

It's what you'd expect from a house in the middle of the woods with a Confederate flag outside. There's a gun rack and some animals mounted on the walls. We're a long way from Los Angeles.

Clyde walks through the living room to the kitchen.

CLYDE

You want a beer?

ARNOLD

Yeah, sure.

Clyde yells out to the porch where Tom is still standing.

CLYDE

Tommy, you want a beer?

TOM

Uh, ok.

Tom slowly walks into the doorway.

Clyde grabs three beers out of the fridge. He throws one to Arnold and one to Tom before opening his own. He sits down in a Lazy Boy.

CLYDE

I saw you on Hannity the other day and I thought to myself, I should probably get more beer.

(MORE)

CLYDE (cont'd)

(beat)

How was the drive?

ARNOLD

Not bad. I just can't do the miles like I used to.

CLYDE

I hear ya. I took this woman I'm seeing to Branson last year and I damn near fell asleep at the wheel. Remember how we used to do a thousand miles in a day?

ARNOLD

Easy.

CLYDE

I can do 300 now, tops.

ARNOLD

You remember that time we drove to Florida and only stopped for gas?

CLYDE

I remember you drinking a beer and doing 85 as the sun came up.

Clyde motions toward Tom.

CLYDE (cont'd)

Is he coming in or what?

ARNOLD

Tommy, sit down. Stay a minute.

(beat)

Clyde, this is my boy Tommy.

CLYDE

Oh hell, I know who he is.

ARNOLD

Tommy, this is my old friend Clyde. We grew up together.

CLYDE

(to Tom)

Nice to meet you, Tommy.

Tom shakes Clyde's hand and sits down next to his father.

CLYDE (cont'd)

So you guys are in some shit.



ARNOLD

What are they saying now?

CLYDE

They're making it sound like you're just about ready for the morgue. As for Tommy, it's mostly that the Antifa hired you to kill this cop and start a riot and a whole bunch of other bullshit. They keep saying AOC is involved, but I can't figure out how.

TOM

I didn't...

Clyde stops him.

CLYDE

You don't have to explain anything to me. I ain't no friend of the cops. That's for damned sure.

ARNOLD

How many did you fight that one time?

CLYDE

Those fuckers had it coming.

ARNOLD

You slept with the guy's girlfriend.

CLYDE

So? He didn't own her. She saw something better come along.

Arnold leans forward in his seat.

ARNOLD

So, what are we looking at?

CLYDE

Yeah, it's not great. From what I'm hearing, they got Tommy here on surveillance at a gas station outside Louisville.

(beat)

You sure you're feeling ok? You had a pretty nasty cough in that video.

Arnold looks at Tom.

TOM

I'm fine.

CLYDE

I assume they made the car.

ARNOLD

You think the car's burned?

CLYDE

I imagine. You aren't in the video and they seem to think you're sick, so you might be ok. But it's not a great angle.

ARNOLD

That's something.

(beat)

Car broke down on us once, though. A cop had to call a tow truck. You think you could take a look at it?

CLYDE

Shit, what am I thinking? Come with me.

**74 EXT. CLYDE'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER**

**74**

They're behind Clyde's house, looking at a boring, generic van.

CLYDE

This is my Plan Z.

TOM

For zombies?

CLYDE

For when the Government comes for my guns.

TOM

Oh.

CLYDE

I spent all morning on this. Changed the oil, spark plugs, you name it.

(to Arnold)

I even took all the guns out.

ARNOLD

Appreciate that.

CLYDE  
 Anyway, you're good to go.

ARNOLD  
 I knew I could count on you. What do we owe you?

Clyde is a little surprised by that.

CLYDE  
 Nothing. Not a goddamn thing.

Arnold knew that would be the answer, but still, you ask.

CLYDE (cont'd)  
 Leave your car here. I'll keep an eye on it. Bring the van back if you can. I'll be here.

ARNOLD  
 I'll bring beer.

CLYDE  
 You fuckin' better.

They hug.

CLYDE (cont'd)  
 Tommy, good to meet you. Take care of yourself.

They shake hands.

TOM  
 Thanks. I will.

**75 INT. THE VAN - CONTINUOUS**

**75**

They get in the van. There's a divider between the front and the back and the back is set up for people to sleep. It's really a van designed for long road trips.

Arnold gets in the driver's seat.

CLYDE  
 Registration is in the glove compartment. It's all good.

ARNOLD  
 You hear that, Tommy? You won't have to swap any more plates.

TOM  
Love it.

CLYDE  
Oh and there's a police scanner in  
the back, in case you need that. All  
analog.

ARNOLD  
I owe you big time.

CLYDE  
No you don't.

## 76 INT. VAN - DAY

76

Arnold is driving while Tom sort of checks it out, echoes of  
the first scene in the car.

TOM  
You guys grew up together?

ARNOLD  
Yup.

TOM  
Huh.

ARNOLD  
I know it's hard to believe, but in  
the olden days, red and blue lived  
together in harmony.

TOM  
Was this before or after the Civil  
War?

ARNOLD  
Why don't you see if that scanner  
back there works?

Tom unbuckles his seat belt and climbs in the back.

He fiddles with it a little. Clyde has mounted it behind the  
driver's seat.

TOM  
How do you work this?

ARNOLD  
No idea.

Tom plays with it for a little while. He's clearly not familiar with the older tech.

TOM  
Fucking hell.

CUT TO:

**77 INT. VAN - MOMENTS LATER**

**77**

Tom is back in the front seat.

TOM  
It's broken.

ARNOLD  
I'll look at it when we stop.

TOM  
I'm telling you it's broken.

**78 EXT. ROAD - DAY**

**78**

They're driving down the highway when they see a police barricade up ahead.

TOM  
Is that for us?

ARNOLD  
Probably.

They slowly approach the barricade. Tom tries not to panic. Arnold tries to slow down his breathing.

He puts on his sunglasses and takes his Clippers hat off and puts it out of sight. From the dashboard, he takes a Pittsburgh Pirates hat and puts it on. He gets the registration out of the glove compartment.

Clipped to the registration is a Pennsylvania driver's license with Arnold's picture and a name to match the registration. He takes the paper clip off and puts the license in his wallet.

**79 INT. THE VAN - CONTINUOUS**

**79**

They're still a ways from the barricade--too far for the barricade to see them. Tom leans out the side window.

It looks bad.

As they inch closer, Tom gets more and more worried.

TOM  
Fuck it.

He opens the door and gets out.

ARNOLD  
What are you doing?

TOM  
See you on the other side.

Tom swipes his finger across the side of his nose and shuts the door.

ARNOLD  
Tommy!

**80 EXT. THE VAN - CONTINUOUS**

**80**

Tom pulls his hoodie over his head and runs directly to the woods.

**81 INT. THE VAN - CONTINUOUS**

**81**

Arnold watches Tom dart into the woods. He's not thrilled with this idea.

**82 EXT. THE WOODS - CONTINUOUS**

**82**

About 5 feet into the woods, Tom comes across a fence. It's designed to keep deer off the road.

Tom climbs it awkwardly and falls over the other side.

**83 INT. THE VAN - CONTINUOUS**

**83**

Arnold sees this.

ARNOLD  
Jesus.

Tom gets up and looks back at the van.

Arnold motions for him to go deeper into woods.

- 84 EXT. THE WOODS 84**  
Tom walks into the woods until he can barely see the van.  
He turns and starts walking parallel to the road.
- 85 INT. THE VAN 85**  
The van moves closer.  
Arnold keeps looking into the woods. He can barely see Tom.
- 86 EXT. THE WOODS 86**  
Tom starts to slowly jog.
- 87 INT. THE VAN - CONTINUOUS 87**  
Only a few cars away now.
- 88 EXT. THE WOODS - CONTINUOUS 88**  
Tom slows down to a walk.
- 89 INT. THE VAN - LATER 89**  
Almost there.
- 90 EXT. THE WOODS - CONTINUOUS 90**  
Tom pulls a black balaclava up over his nose and gets low to the ground, moving slowly.
- 91 EXT. THE BARRICADE - LATER 91**  
Arnold is at the barricade. It's at least 5 cop cars.  
A cop approaches the van. He is not wearing a mask.
- 92 EXT. THE WOODS - CONTINUOUS 92**  
Tom's eyes are locked on the cops milling around the barricade.

**93 INT. THE BARRICADE - CONTINUOUS****93**

Arnold rolls the window down a couple of inches.

ARNOLD  
Afternoon, Officer.

The cop looks inside. He looks around Arnold to the back of the van.

COP  
Where you headed?

ARNOLD  
Just thought I'd get out of the house. Starting to go stir-crazy.

The cop looks at him for a minute. Shades of the Larry David stare-down.

**94 EXT. THE WOODS - CONTINUOUS****94**

Tom isn't looking at the ground and trips over something. He makes a small racket as he falls to the ground.

Two of the cops at the barricade hear it.

Tom stays on the ground, trying to make himself as small as possible.

Tom watches the two cops walk toward the woods.

**95 INT. THE BARRICADE - CONTINUOUS****95**

The cop breaks his Larry David stare when he sees his colleagues walk toward the woods.

Arnold doesn't say anything.

**96 EXT. THE WOODS - CONTINUOUS****96**

We stay on Tom's POV as the cops look into the woods. It feels like forever.

COP 1  
Anything?

COP 2  
Probably just a deer.



Cop 2 walks back to the barricade. Cop 1 lingers and then follows.

**97 INT. THE BARRICADE - CONTINUOUS 97**

The cop watches his colleagues return, then hands Arnold his papers.

COP

Okay.

He motions Arnold to go along.

ARNOLD

Thank you, officer.

He drives through the barricade and tries to avoid looking at the woods.

He watches the barricade recede in the rear view mirror.

**98 EXT. PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER 98**

Arnold pulls the van into the first parking lot he sees.

**99 INT. VAN - CONTINUOUS 99**

Arnold shuts the van off and immediately has a little bit of a breakdown.

**100 EXT. PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER 100**

Arnold paces around the parking lot. He goes over to the edge of the woods to see if he can see anything.

Why did he let him go?

ARNOLD

(to himself)

No dear, I just let him walk into the woods in the middle of Pennsylvania. And then I came home.

(beat)

I'm so dead.

There's nothing he can do but wait.

**101 INT. VAN - LATER****101**

Some time has passed. Arnold has gotten coffee from a convenience store. He's clearly been sitting there for a long time, like someone on a stakeout.

Suddenly the door opens. It's Tom. He looks like he crawled through the woods.

TOM

I was thinking maybe I'd see if I can get the scanner working after all.

Arnold is obviously relieved.

ARNOLD

Took you long enough.

TOM

I'm not exactly a woods person, ok?

**102 EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY****102**

They drive past signs for New York City.

**103 EXT. CAMPGROUND - NIGHT****103**

Thanks to the van, they're able to stay further off the grid. They've built a fire in the woods and are each sitting in a camping chair with a beer.

TOM

Dad?

ARNOLD

Yeah?

TOM

What am I supposed to do?

(beat)

Like, after you leave, what do I do?

Arnold thinks for a few seconds.

ARNOLD

I don't know.

(beat)

But you're a smart kid.

TOM

Not smart enough to avoid this.

ARNOLD

We all do dumb shit. Yours just led to a nation-wide manhunt. You'll figure it out.

TOM

Maybe.

ARNOLD

Look, it's going to be scary. There will be points where you'll feel hopelessly alone. It's going to suck. It's really going to suck. But you'll find your way. If you're lucky, you'll meet a great girl. In a couple of years, you'll be married in some non-extradition country somewhere. And it'd be great if you could find a way to let your Mother know how she can meet her grandchildren.

Tom smiles.

TOM

I can do that.

ARNOLD

She'd appreciate it. And while she's spoiling the fuck out of them, you and I will drink some beers and compare notes.

TOM

I'd really like that.

ARNOLD

I have no doubt you can do this.

**104 EXT. MAINE BORDER - DAY**

**104**

They cross the bridge into Maine.

Tom has a legal pad propped up on his knees and is writing something.

**105 EXT. MAINE - DAY**

**105**

They drive past the sign that says "Maine: the Way Life Should Be".

Arnold noticeably relaxes. Hitting Maine has lightened him.

**106 EXT. PORTLAND - DAY** **106**

As they drive past Portland, "She Don't Use Jelly" plays through the stereo again. This time, Arnold and Tom both sing along at the top of their lungs, windows rolled down.

**107 EXT. BRUNSWICK EXIT - DAY** **107**

They leave I-95 for the Brunswick exit.

**108 EXT. MOODY'S DINER - DAY** **108**

Arnold pulls the van into Moody's Diner, one of Maine's iconic diners.

**109 INT. MOODY'S DINER - MOMENTS LATER** **109**

They walk into the vintage diner. Not the corporate kind you see in L.A., but an authentic one that's been family owned for nearly 100 years.

The walls are lined with framed photos of generations of people who have taken photos of themselves in Moody's t-shirts in various places. Arnold scans the photos.

ARNOLD

There it is.

He points to a photo.

ARNOLD (cont'd)

You see that handsome devil right there?

TOM

Yeah.

ARNOLD

That's me with your Grandfather.

TOM

Really? Wow.

ARNOLD

That must have been 40 years ago.

**110 INT. MOODY'S DINER - LATER** **110**

They're sitting at stools at the counter.

BETSY  
What'll you have?

ARNOLD  
I'll have a coffee and do you have  
blueberry pie?

BETSY  
Yup.  
(to Tom)  
You?

ARNOLD  
You gotta have the pie.

TOM  
Same for me.

**111 INT. MOODY'S DINER - MOMENTS LATER**

**111**

The pie has arrived. Arnold takes a bite.

ARNOLD  
Some places just never change, you  
know?

He looks around and waves of memories sweep over him.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
When I was a kid, I was obsessed with  
basketball. I'd play year-round. I'd  
shoot until it got too dark to see  
the net.

TOM  
Were you any good?

ARNOLD  
Not really, but I could shoot.  
Coaches didn't want you shooting 3s  
back then. I'd be really good now.  
(beat)  
Anyway, I begged your Grandfather to  
take me to a Celtics game. I must  
have driven him insane. But it  
worked! Once a year, he'd drive my  
brother and I down to Boston for a  
game at the Garden.

TOM  
You have a brother?

Arnold nods.

ARNOLD

Then, we got Larry Bird and we got to go a little more often.

(smiles)

Dad couldn't afford a hotel or to take an extra day off, so we always drove back that night. Back then, this was the only place that was open all night, so we'd stop. Dad would wake us up and we'd sit here at 1 in the morning eating pie while he drank enough coffee to get us home.

(beat)

God, I loved those trips.

(beat)

He couldn't afford it, I'm sure. He must have put us in bed and gone right to work.

Arnold is kind of realizing this for the first time.

Arnold tries not to cry.

TOM

I've never seen you cheer for the Celtics. Why did you become a Clippers' fan?

ARNOLD

When I started over, I thought I needed to change everything, so there was nothing to connect me. I told people I grew up in L.A., so I turned myself into a Clippers fan. I created a whole backstory.

TOM

Not the Lakers?

ARNOLD

I'd rather go to jail.

(laughs)

But when I got season tickets, I never took anyone to the Celtics game. I saved that seat for my father.

That idea lingers for a minute.

And then Tom's face goes white.

ARNOLD (cont'd)

What?

Arnold follows Tom's eyes to the register where a local cop has walked in.

WALDOBORO POLICE

Afternoon, Betsy.

BETSY

Hey, John. Coffee to go?

WALDOBORO POLICE

Yes, please.

Tom is trying not to freak out.

ARNOLD

Stay cool. He's not looking for us.

TOM

I'm going to go.

ARNOLD

Don't draw any attention to yourself.

Suddenly, the cop looks toward them. He sees something.

TOM

Fuck me.

The cop takes a step toward them.

They both try to disappear without looking obvious. Arnold lifts his coffee cup to his lips. Tom tips the brim of his hat down.

The cop keeps walking.

Tom starts to slide off his stool, ready to run.

Arnold puts his hand on Tom's forearm.

WALDOBORO POLICE

Everett!

He keeps walking to the old man in the corner stool.

They relax.

**112 EXT. CAMDEN - DAY 112**

They drive through downtown Camden, the classic Maine tourist town.

**113 EXT. DYSART'S - DAY 113**

They pull into Dysart's, a truck stop and Travel Center outside of Bangor.

**114 INT. DYSART'S BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER 114**

Arnold stands at the far end of a row of urinals, taking a piss.

A well-dressed, but unshaved man in his early 50's walks in and takes the urinal 3 away from Arnold. Arnold looks at him. It's a reflex. The man, JAMES, looks at Arnold. He notices something, but he doesn't say anything. He's a gentleman, after all.

They're both wearing masks.

**115 INT. DYSART'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS 115**

Arnold finishes and walks to the sink to wash his hands.

James does the same.

Arnold tries to avoid any eye contact.

**116 INT. DYSART'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS 116**

They each get paper towels to dry their hands.

**117 INT. DYSART'S BATHROOM HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 117**

Arnold walks out of the bathroom and into the long ramp of a hallway that leads to the store.

JAMES

Arnold?

Arnold stops cold.

JAMES (cont'd)

Arnold Cowens?



The camera does a modified VERTIGO zoom.

Arnold turns around.

JAMES (cont'd)  
You don't recognize me?

A chill goes down Arnold's spine.

ARNOLD  
I'm sorry?

James pulls his mask down.

JAMES  
It's James. James Chapman. From the  
DA's office?

Oh. Fuck. Fuck. Fuck. Fuck.

He's backed up against a wall. Suddenly Arnold is trapped and very, very nervous.

ARNOLD  
James, of course. I didn't recognize  
you with the mask on. How's it going?

JAMES  
Good. The news was just getting to  
me, you know? So Angela and I said,  
you know what? We've got vacation  
time. We should just go to Maine and  
unplug.

ARNOLD  
Unplug?

JAMES  
Just two weeks in the woods. No  
phones. No TV. Nothing. We spent all  
day reading books by the lake. Drank  
a lot of great wine. You really  
should try it.

Tom walks into view at the bottom of the ramp. He's holding a bag.

ARNOLD  
Yeah...I, uh, that's what we're here  
to do.

JAMES

Oh is Linda here? I'm sure Angela would love to see her.

ARNOLD

She...is...not. Just doing a father/son thing.

JAMES

Oh, that's great. I hadn't taken any time off since we moved to Boston right after, well, you know.

(beat)

Turns out I really needed it.

Oh, right. That.

ARNOLD

Hey, I always felt bad about that. You should have gotten it. Not me. You were way more qualified.

JAMES

I appreciate you saying that. But Boston is great. Really interesting firm.

ARNOLD

That's fantastic. I'm really happy for you.

(beat)

So, you're heading back to Boston?

JAMES

Yup. But, honestly, I kind of want to just go right back to the woods.

ARNOLD

(laughs awkwardly)

You should! Trust me, it's a shit show back there.

James laughs.

JAMES

Alright, well it's great to see you again. What are the odds I'd run into you here?

ARNOLD

Really pretty lucky, huh? Great to see you.

James starts to walk away. Tom turns away as he passes.  
 After James walks past Tom, Tom turns to Arnold.

TOM  
 (silently)  
 What. The. Fuck?

118 INT. VAN - MOMENTS LATER

118

Back in the van.

TOM  
 Who the fuck was that?

ARNOLD  
 We were in the DA's office together  
 in LA.

TOM  
 Oh my god. Is he going to turn us in?

ARNOLD  
 James? No.  
 (beat)  
 Maybe.  
 (beat)  
 Probably.

TOM  
 Are you friends?

ARNOLD  
 You know, work friends.  
 (beat)  
 Just, he might still be mad at me.

TOM  
 Why?

ARNOLD  
 He was on the short list when I got  
 appointed.

TOM  
 Oh my god. Fuck me.

ARNOLD  
 Let's not panic. It's a long drive to  
 Boston.

TOM

What if he checks his phone? Or turns on the radio? We should have fucking kidnapped him.

ARNOLD

We're not kidnapping anyone.

TOM

Says the guy who killed someone in a knife fight.

ARNOLD

We can't kidnap him because he was with his wife and we'd have to kidnap them both and she's a friend of your mother's and...I don't remember what she looks like.

TOM

Jesus.

ARNOLD

We just keep going. Nothing else we can do.

They turn onto the highway.

ARNOLD (cont'd)

What's in the bag?

Tom reaches into the bag and pulls out a Celtics hat.

TOM

I thought you could use a new hat.

**119 EXT. MAINE COAST - DAY**

**119**

They drive past a cop going the other way on Route 1. They both freeze and silently watch as the car disappears in the rear view mirror.

**120 EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY**

**120**

Arnold pulls onto a dirt road that goes through a cemetery and stops the car. He gets out.

TOM

What's this?

ARNOLD  
I think it's time for you to meet  
your grandparents.

121 EXT. GRAVEYARD - MOMENTS LATER

121

They've found the gravestones of Arnold's parents. They stand side by side.

Arnold places a can of Colt 45 on the stone.

ARNOLD  
Hey Mom. Hey Dad.  
(beat)  
So I know you said I could never come back here, but, uh, something came up and I didn't know what else to do.  
(beat)  
This is your Grandson Tommy.  
(to Tom)  
Say hi to your Grandparents.

TOM  
Uh, hi?

ARNOLD  
Dad, I did exactly what you told me to do. Got married. You really would have liked Linda. S  
(laughs)  
I'm a judge now in Los Angeles. At least I think I still am. I guess I'll find out in a couple of days.  
(beat)  
You should know that you missed one hell of a crazy year. I'm not sure if that's good or bad, but I wish you could see it, because you wouldn't believe it.  
(beat)  
Uh...I came back because Tommy got in a little bit of trouble himself. I guess it runs in the family. And, Dad, I just want you to know that I'm doing what you did for me. So if you could keep an eye on him, I'd...I'd really appreciate it.

They stand there in silence.

**122 EXT. GRAVEYARD - MOMENTS LATER****122**

Arnold has found another stone. It has several rounds of flowers on it. Clearly the family visits it a lot.

He stands in front of it, somber.

Tom walks up behind him, approaching slowly. Eventually, he speaks.

TOM  
Is this the guy?

Arnold nods.

He stands there for a few minutes, processing it all. This is really the first time he's come face to face with what he did in 25 years.

ARNOLD  
(quietly)  
I'm so sorry.

**123 EXT. THE COAST - SUNSET****123**

The sun is setting as they drive along the Maine coast. Arnold has his new Celtics hat on.

**124 EXT. ROGER'S HOUSE - EVENING****124**

The van pulls into a driveway. It's an old New England house. There's a couple of lights on inside and a stack of lobster traps on the lawn.

Arnold just sits in the car, looking at it. Tom watches him.

After a minute, a man comes to the door. This is ROGER, Arnold's brother. Roger has a thick Downeast Maine accent.

ROGER  
Who's there?

Arnold shuts off the car and gets out.

ARNOLD  
Hey, Roger.

Arnold takes a couple steps into the light. After a few seconds, it clicks.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
The house looks good.

ROGER  
Holy fucking shit.

Arnold walks over and Roger gives him a huge hug.

ROGER (cont'd)  
I knew it. I fucking knew it.

Tom steps into the light.

ROGER (cont'd)  
There's the man of the hour.

TOM  
Hi.

ROGER  
Well come on in the house already.

**125 INT. ROGER'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER**

**125**

Roger's house is the house Arnold grew up in. It's a lobsterman's home, simple, lived-in, with hardwood floors and a design that hasn't changed much in the last 70 years. There's antiques just about everywhere.

ROGER  
Joanie! Get out here!

Roger's wife, JOANIE walks through the doorway from the kitchen. She's quiet.

ROGER (cont'd)  
What did I tell you?

She nods.

ROGER (cont'd)  
Dale, this is my wife Joanie. Joanie, this is my brother and his son, the famous fugitive from justice.

ARNOLD  
I hope we're not imposing.

JOANIE  
Of course not. You're just in time for dinner.

ARNOLD

That'd be great. Thanks.

ROGER

The minute I saw the news, I said to Joanie, "how much you want to bet he ends up here?" Shit, I even went to Hannaford and picked up some beers in case you showed up. You want a beer?

ARNOLD

Sure.

ROGER

(to Tom)

How about you? You old enough to drink?

TOM

Um...

ROGER

What are they gonna do, arrest you? Have a beer with your uncle.

ARNOLD

Do you mind if I use the bathroom?

ROGER

Of course not.

**126 INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

**126**

Arnold is upstairs and about to go in the bathroom when he notices a door that says "Dale" on it. This is his old room.

He opens the door and turns on the light.

It's a time capsule to 1993. The room is exactly how he left it. There's his stereo and his clothes and an old Larry Bird poster.

It takes his breath away.

**127 INT. DALE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

**127**

Arnold walks around the room in something of a daze. All his stuff is here. He picks things up. He opens a few drawers. It's like he never left.



There's a Bangor Daily News clipping of Dale playing for Calais in the state high school tournament. Next to it is the small medal they give you for playing in a Regional Final.

He turns and sees Roger standing in the doorway, holding two beers. He hands Arnold one.

ROGER

After you left, Mom and Dad had a running thing about who was going to get your room.

(beat)

Then when we got the house, we figured we'd give it to our son, but that didn't happen and we just never got around to cleaning it out.

Arnold nods. Clearly they've left it like that for a reason. He gets it.

ARNOLD

I can see how that would be a hassle.

ROGER

Wicked hassle.

ARNOLD

Mom and Dad, uh, I found their graves.

ROGER

Yeah, um, Mom had an aneurysm in 2012. Went instantly.

ARNOLD

Jesus.

ROGER

She knew it was going to happen, but didn't want to worry anyone. That was hard. No warning. Nothing. Just gone.

(beat)

Then Dad had an accident on his boat a couple months later.

ARNOLD

On his boat? Dad?

ROGER

If you ask me, he did it on purpose. He spent the weeks before that tying up loose ends. He made a will.

ARNOLD  
He made a will? Our father?

ROGER  
It was a shock to a lot of people,  
especially the town lawyer.  
(smiles)  
I didn't mention that to the  
insurance company.

ARNOLD  
I'm so sorry. I should have been  
here.

Roger shrugs.

ROGER  
We didn't know how to find you.

ARNOLD  
Still.

ROGER  
I know.  
(beat)  
Oh, that reminds me.

Roger picks up a book and pulls out an envelope that's been  
functioning as a book mark.

ROGER (cont'd)  
This is for you.

Arnold looks confused.

ROGER (cont'd)  
Dad figured you'd be back eventually.

Arnold takes the envelope. He's a little surprised.

**128 INT. ROGER'S HOUSE - LATER**

**128**

They're eating diner around the table. Naturally, they're  
eating lobster.

Tom has no fucking clue what to do.

ARNOLD  
This brings me back.  
(to Tom)  
You ever have lobster before?

TOM

Never.

ARNOLD

Ok, so you take the claws off first.

Arnold demonstrates on his own. Tom does it, awkwardly.

ARNOLD (cont'd)

Then you suck out the juice.

TOM

Do I get a bib?

ROGER

Bibs are for tourists, Tommy.

TOM

Right.

He sucks the juice.

ROGER

How much would this cost out there?

ARNOLD

What are these, 1 and a quarter?

ROGER

One and a half.

ARNOLD

In a restaurant? Fifty? If you can find them live, at least 10?

ROGER

Jesus.

ARNOLD

What are you getting for them now?

ROGER

Like 2 or 3. It was 5 last year.

ARNOLD

Shit.

(to Tom)

There's meat in the legs. Here, like this.

Arnold eats the meat out of his lobster's legs.

ARNOLD (cont'd)  
So you can get him to Canada?

ROGER  
Yeah, you know how it is. We go back and forth all the time. Not so much since they shut it all down, but it's no big deal. Joanie's cousin has a boat outta Saint George. I'll let him know.

ARNOLD  
Just be careful to...

ROGER  
I know what I'm doing. Who do you think gets all the old farts in this town their Canadian drugs?

(beat)  
Shit, you remember that Peters kid? The fat one? He's the Chief now and he needs his diabetes meds, same as the rest of 'em. Shit. He'd probably help. Fucking kid worshiped you.

ARNOLD  
So it's not a problem?

ROGER  
Nah. No one gives a shit.

ARNOLD  
What about the family?

ROGER  
They're here, but they're easy enough to avoid.

ARNOLD  
The Peters kid might not care, but someone might.

ROGER  
Well there you go. I guess that's why you've gotta get Tommy across.

ARNOLD  
Yeah.

TOM  
Then what happens?

ROGER

Oh, that's easy. I have a ton of buddies over there. You might have to work on a boat for a while, but you'll be alright. I'll keep an eye on you.

TOM

Then what?

ROGER

You lay low for a bit and then you can do whatever you want. Go wherever you want.

(beat)

These guys, there's tons of guys who end up there because they have to disappear.

(beat)

It's not...he won't be alone.

ARNOLD

I'm gonna...excuse me.

Arnold leaves the room.

ROGER

(to Tom)

So, Tommy. You got a girlfriend?

TOM

I did. She's probably dumped me by now.

ROGER

Yeah, I bout 'magine. We'll find you a good Canadian girl. She can teach you how to skin a moose.

TOM

Gross.

Roger laughs.

ROGER

You'll get used to it.

TOM

You think I can come back?

ROGER

I dunno. Your Dad is the expert on that.

TOM

No, I know I can't go back back. But do you think I can come back here? To visit?

ROGER

You can always come back here.

129 INT. ROGER'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

129

They catch up over some beers.

ROGER

So it's Arnold now?

ARNOLD

Red seemed too obvious.

Roger nods.

ROGER

And Tommy?

ARNOLD

Of course.

TOM

What?

ROGER

You're named after Tommy Heinsohn.

TOM

Who's Tommy Heinsohn?

ROGER

Who's Tommy Heinsohn? Christ. What are you teaching this kid?

ARNOLD

He's a California kid.

(to Tom)

He used to play for the Celtics. Now he does TV.

ROGER

Used to play for the Celtics. He's a goddamn legend. I've never met anyone more obsessed with the Celtics than your Dad.

TOM  
He has Clippers seasons tickets.

ROGER  
The CLIPPERS? Jesus Fucking Christ.

ARNOLD  
Had to be done.

ROGER  
Bullshit. You HATED the Clippers.

ARNOLD  
I hated the Lakers. I still hate the Lakers.

Oh, ok.

Roger clinks beers with Arnold.

ROGER  
Fuck the Lakers.

ARNOLD  
Fuck 'em.

**130 INT. DALE'S ROOM - NIGHT**

**130**

Arnold is in his old room. He picks up the remote for his small TV, but it doesn't work. So he turns it on from the TV itself. He sits on the edge of the bed, scrolling through the channels until he gets to a cable news station.

NEWS ANCHOR  
Finally tonight, an update in the manhunt for suspected killer Tom Cowens, wanted for the murder of a Los Angeles police officer. The FBI has launched a nation-wide search for Cowens. His mother spoke to reporters earlier today.

LINDA  
(on TV)  
Tommy, your father and I are worried sick. If you're watching this, please turn yourself in and we'll do everything we can to help you resolve this.

Linda gets a little emotional in the video. She takes her glasses off to wipe her eye.

She doesn't put them back on.

She composes herself and looks directly into the camera.

LINDA (cont'd)  
Please come home.

Arnold slowly repeats the nose gesture from THE STING.

Arnold turns off the TV and sits in silence on the edge of his childhood bed.

After a minute, he takes the envelope out of his back pocket and opens it. He starts to read.

A tear goes down his cheek.

**131 EXT. THE DOCK - PRE-DAWN**

**131**

Roger's lobster boat is ready to go.

There's a heavy sea mist blanketing everything.

ROGER  
(to Arnold)  
I don't want you to worry about Tommy. I'll take care of everything. There's a million spots along that coast. We'll get him to Saint George, no problem.

ARNOLD  
I knew I could count on you.

ROGER  
I know you're a fancy Judge in California now, but this area is lousy with fuckin' tourists from California these days. No reason you can't be one of 'em.

ARNOLD  
Fair enough.

They shake hands, then move in to a hug.

ROGER  
Take care of yourself.

ARNOLD  
Take care of my boy.



ROGER

Will do.  
(to Tom)  
Whenever you're ready.

Roger walks to the boat.

Tom turns to face Arnold. He hands him a folded piece of paper.

TOM

Can you give this to Mom?

ARNOLD

Of course.

Tom takes out the phone. He hands it to Arnold.

TOM

Text Mom. I'm sure she'll want Dale's new number.

ARNOLD

I will.

TOM

Dad...

He starts to tear up and instead lunges into a hug.

TOM (cont'd)

I love you.

ARNOLD

I love you too.

It's a long hug. They're both crying.

ARNOLD (cont'd)

Find a way to let us know you're ok.

TOM

I will.  
(beat)  
You could come with me.

ARNOLD

You're going to do great.

Tom steps back and takes a look at Arnold. They're both still crying.

TOM  
I'll find a way back and we'll go to  
a game.

Arnold knows that will never happen.

ARNOLD  
Can't wait.

TOM  
Bye, Dad.

Arnold can't speak.

Tom grabs his bag and heads for the boat. He climbs aboard  
and they push off. He watches Arnold until his Father  
disappears into the mist.

FADE TO BLACK