

The Road Home

By

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Principal characters:

Wayne Lopez - Michael Pena - Confident but sketchy in the beginning.

Joe Brooks - Bradley Cooper / Tom Cruise type calm, confident.

Don Brooks - Joe's father J.K. Simmons type, strong, confident.

Samantha Brooks (SAM) - Joe's sister. Kelly Reilly type, strong, sarcastic, fun.

Woman Harley Dealer - Jane Lynch type, direct, frank.

Fade In:

EXT. AIRBASE IN THE MIDDLE EAST - DAY

Three helicopters are heading in to land outside the airbase hospital. As the first one touches down sand and dust begin to rise in the rotor wash. The other two helicopters approach. Medical staff with gurneys approach the first helicopter and begin to take wounded off.

A SOLDIER, WAYNE jumps out of the second helicopter and runs limping to the first helicopter. Wayne has a bandage on his leg, arm, and side abdomen.

Wayne pushes medical personal out of the way.

INT. HELICOPTER - DAY

Wayne checks on one soldier laying in the helicopter as a MEDIC helps move him out of the helicopter. The wounded soldier's neck is bandaged with compression wraps. He's pale, unresponsive, and his face is splattered with blood.

WAYNE

How's he doing?

MEDIC

He's alive. You did your job.

Wayne watches as they move the wounded soldier on to a gurney and wheel him away. A Medic walks up behind Wayne with a wheelchair.

MEDIC

Are you going to walk it, or do you need a ride?

Wayne looks at the Medic and the wheelchair then he looks at the bloody bandage on his leg. Wayne sits down in the wheelchair and the Medic begins pushing the wheelchair.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

A patient is lying in bed with his right arm in a cast when DR. MIKE walks up.

DR. MIKE

How are you feeling chief?

CHIEF

Like shit Doc.

Chief raises his arm in the cast.

CHIEF

You sure they put my arm back together right?

DR. MIKE

Pretty sure. The pain should be gone in a few days, but the arm is going to take a few months to heal.

CHIEF

How's the Medic that was out there with us doing?

DR. MIKE

I'm going to check in on him in just a while. He's doing fine. Don't you know his name?

CHIEF

No. We lost our Medic the day before the mission. Idiot broke his ankle in the shower. We pulled the new guy out of the barracks thirty minutes before we took off.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Wayne is lying in bed. His arm is bandaged. Dr. Mike walks up with his chart.

DR. MIKE

How are you feeling.

Wayne flexes his arm.

WAYNE

I'm doing pretty good.

Dr. Mike reads the chart.

DR. MIKE

LOPEZ, WAYNE, Army Medic.

WAYNE

Yes, Sir.

DR. MIKE

I thought the Seals had Navy Corpsmen?

WAYNE

They usually do, but something happened to theirs. I was the only medic on the base with combat experience.

DR. MIKE

The Chief said they pulled you out of the barracks right before they took off.

WAYNE

They did, I was barely awake when we got on the chopper.

DR. MIKE

Several of the guys you were brought in with have been asking about you.

WAYNE

How are they doing?

DR. MIKE

All but one is doing fine. BROOKS was in critical condition when they brought him in. They all said you kept them alive.

WAYNE

None of them had life threatening wounds except for the one. You said his name is Brooks?

Dr. Mike reads through the chart.

DR. MIKE

It say's here you already have a purple heart.

WAYNE

Yes.

DR. MIKE

Don't you know how to duck?

WAYNE

I'm a Medic. They didn't teach you how to duck in Medic school.

Wayne and Dr. Mike smile.

WAYNE

It's funny. I have seen action several times and never really thought about it. You're moving around so fast as a medic. But when I got hit, I was pissed. I thought to myself I should have kept my ass down. Plus, I'm

usually not carrying a gun so they shouldn't be shooting at me, right?

Dr. Mike is checking the bandage on Wayne's arm.

DR. MIKE

I'm not so sure that's how it works.

WAYNE

The guy that was in critical condition, Brooks. Did the trauma cause any edema to his spinal cord?

Dr. Mike gives Wayne a questioning look.

DR. MIKE

Edema to the spinal cord?

WAYNE

I could tell the bullet passed between C1 and C2 but didn't know if any spinal injury or edema had caused paralysis.

Dr. Mike gives Wayne another questioning look.

DR. MIKE

You don't talk like a medic.

WAYNE

Three years of medical school.

Dr. Mike raises his eyebrows.

DR. MIKE

What are you doing with a bunch of Seals out on a mission?

WAYNE

I ran out of money and wasn't going to go in debt for the rest of my life.

DR. MIKE

I know all about debt. The Army is my way of paying it off before I enter the real world. Brooks should be fine. His

vocal cords were damaged badly. The surgeon did his best but he's going to need more surgery.

Wayne gets a concerned look on his face.

DR. MIKE

You did a great job keeping him and the rest of the guys alive. Including yourself. You deserve a lot of credit.

Dr. Mike smiles at Wayne and Wayne smiles back but then the smile fades from Wayne's face.

INT. HOSPITAL HALL - DAY

Wayne is walking down the hallway on crutches past an open door.

CHIEF (O.C)

Hey asshole, you drug me into a muddy ditch.

Wayne backs up and looks through the door to see the Chief lying in bed. Wayne makes his way into the room.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Wayne makes his way over to the Chief's bed and smiles.

WAYNE

I did, didn't I. It was the only place I could find to get out of the way of all the bullets flying around. How you doing?

CHIEF

I'm doing ok. The bullet went through my leg without hitting anything.

Chief holds up his right arm in the cast.

CHIEF

The arm on the other hand got broke when I fell.

WAYNE

I know.

The Chief holds up his arm in the cast.

CHIEF

I'd shake your hand but.

WAYNE

I should be shaking your hand. You got back up and kept them off me while I took care of Brooks.

The Chief looks Wayne up and down.

CHIEF

By looking at you, I didn't do a very good job.

Wayne looks at the crutches.

WAYNE

I took one through the leg and abdomen before I got to Brooks.

Wayne looks at the bandage on his arm.

WAYNE

I don't know when I got hit in the arm.

CHIEF

The Doc said everyone is going to be Ok.

WAYNE

From what he told me, Brooks is the only one heading home for good.

The Chief holds up his arm.

CHIEF

They'll be rotating me home for a few months, but I should be back in service after that. What about you?

Wayne looks at his leg.

WAYNE

Ya, I'll be heading home for a few months also.

CHIEF

Well, thanks again and good luck.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Dr. Mike is checking on Brooks who is sitting up in bed with his throat bandaged.

Brooks sees Wayne hobbling by the door with a cane. Brooks grabs Dr. Mike's arm and shakes him while pointing out the door.

DR. MIKE

What do you want?

Brooks violently points several times out the door.

Dr. Mike walks to the door.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Dr. Mike looks in the hallway and sees Wayne.

DR. MIKE

Lopez.

Wayne stops, turns around and looks at Dr. Mike.

DR. MIKE

I think Brooks wants to see you.

Wayne hobbles over to the door.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Wayne hobbles in with his cane as Dr. Mike walks out. Wayne makes his way over to the bed.

WAYNE

How are you doing?

Brooks grabs a pad and pen off the side table. Brooks writes on the pad and holds it up. The pad reads "Thank You". Brooks holds out his right hand.

Wayne shakes Brooks's hand.

WAYNE

I should be thanking you.

Brooks holds his hands up as if to question why.

WAYNE

You yelled at me to "get down" right before they opened fire on us.

Brooks looks down at his lap. Brooks picks up the pad and writes for a few seconds then holds the pad up. The pad reads "You were walking across the field when I saw them begin to pop up. I remember yelling, Doc get down". The last words I may ever say.

WAYNE

I dropped like a rock just before the bullets started to fly. You saved my life.

Brooks shakes his head No. Brooks writes more on the pad then holds it up. The pad reads "The guys said you and the Chief helped carry me to the chopper even though you were both wounded".

WAYNE

You weren't exactly in any shape to walk.

Brooks slightly laughs in his throat then puts his hand on his throat as he winces in pain.

WAYNE

The Doc said you will be rotating home.

Brooks writes on the pad and holds it up. The pad reads "In a few days. Once they release me, I'm heading home. How about you?".

WAYNE

I'm heading home also, until my leg
heals.

Brooks writes on the pad then hold his hand out. Wayne shakes Brooks's hand again. Brooks holds up the pad and it reads "Thanks again".

WAYNE

No, thank you.

Wayne hobbles out of the room.

INT. BUS - DAY

Brooks and the Chief are sitting in a seat together. Wayne hobbles onto the bus with his cane.

Wayne is making his way down the aisle when he sees Brooks and the Chief.

WAYNE

Where are you two headed?

Brooks raises his hand as if it is an airplane taking off.

CHIEF

Headed home. You?

WAYNE

Home.

Wayne sits down in a seat.

INT. VA HOSPITAL GYM AREA - DAY

Wayne is exercising his wounded leg when the Chief comes in using a crutch and sits down on a machine close to Wayne.

WAYNE

I heard you had some trouble the other day.

CHIEF

Ya, some asshole orderly was mocking Brooks because he cannot talk. He was treating him like he's stupid.

The Chief holds up his left fist.

CHIEF

I only need one good hand to knockout assholes.

The Chief begins to work out on the machine.

WAYNE

Is he filing charges against you?

CHIEF

He better not. If it wasn't for Brooks, most of the platoon would have been killed. Brooks took out the first six or seven before we knew what hit us. As long as I'm around, no asshole is going to make fun of him.

Wayne continues to work out with a concerned look on his face.

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - DAY

Wayne is sitting at a computer searching the Internet. On the screen you can see results for reconstructing vocal cords.

INT. VA HOSPITAL GYM AREA - DAY

Wayne is exercising his arm. A doctor comes in.

DOCTOR

How's the arm and leg doing?

WAYNE

Good. I'm ready to get out of here and go home for some leave. Hey Doc, what do you know about a Navy Seal by the name of Brooks?

DOCTOR

He's going good.

WAYNE

What about his vocal cords?

DOCTOR

There's nothing we can do right now. He needs to heal up for a month before they can try any reconstructive surgery.

WAYNE

Thanks Doc.

The Doctor walks away while Wayne continues to work out.

INT. VA HOSPITAL CAFETERIA - DAY

Wayne is eating at a table when Brooks walks in.

Brooks sees Wayne and Wayne nods.

Brooks nods back.

Wayne is eating when Brooks walks up with a tray. Brooks motions with his tray towards the table as if to ask for permission to sit down.

WAYNE

Have a seat.

Brooks nods and sits down.

WAYNE

The Doc said you were heading home to heal?

Brooks shakes his head Yes.

WAYNE

Have you seen the Chief?

Brooks raises his hand as if it is a plane taking off.

WAYNE

He's gone?

Brooks shakes his head Yes.

WAYNE

How many days before you're heading home?

Brooks holds up two fingers, then adds a third, then holds his hands up and shrugs to indicate he does not know.

WAYNE

Me too. Where's home?

Brooks holds his hands up and makes an outline of Texas.

WAYNE

Texas?

Brooks shake his head Yes. Then points to Wayne.

WAYNE

Me? I'm heading home to San Diego.
You've got a lot shorter flight than me.

Brooks shakes his head No. Brooks stops eating and holds out his hands like he's riding a bike and rotates his right hand as if he's working a throttle on a motorcycle.

WAYNE

You're riding home on a motorcycle.

Brooks shakes his head Yes.

WAYNE

That's a ride.

Brooks shakes his head No. Brooks closes his eyes and smiles slightly. Brooks holds his hands up as if he is meditating for a moment then opens his eyes. Wayne smiles.

WAYNE

I know what you mean.

Brooks puts his hands down and gets a surprise look on his face. Brooks points at Wayne and makes the same gesture as if he is riding a motorcycle.

WAYNE

Ya, I ride. I haven't since I enlisted.
Do you have a bike?

Brooks shakes his head No.

INT. VA HOSPITAL CAFETERIA - DAY

Brooks finishes his meal and pushes the tray to the side. Brooks pulls out a tablet and pen and begins to write.

Wayne watches as Brooks writes.

Brooks turns the pad around so Wayne can read it. Wayne reads.

WAYNE

I'm going to the dealership this
afternoon to look at Harley's. It's
just a mile away. Why don't you come
with me?

Wayne rubs his leg.

WAYNE

That's a long way. I don't know if I
could make it that far.

Brooks writes on the pad and turns it so Wayne can read. The pad read "Pussy".

WAYNE

I'm not a pussy. I helped carry your
ass to the helicopter after being shot.

Brooks writes again and spins the pad around. Wayne reads the pad. The pad reads "See you downstairs in thirty minutes". Wayne looks at Brooks. Brooks is smiling. Brooks puts the tablet in his pocket and picks up his tray then walks away. Wayne sits there rubbing his leg.

EXT. VA HOSPITAL - DAY

Brooks is waiting outside when Wayne comes out walking with a cane. Brooks points to the cane and then gestures with his hands as if to say Why.

Wayne holds up the cane.

WAYNE

I need it when my leg gets sore.

Brooks mouths the word pussy.

Wayne looks at the cane and then leans the cane against a bench. Wayne begins walking and Brooks joins him.

WAYNE (WITH ATTITUDE)

Don't call me a pussy.

EXT. HARLEY DEALERSHIP - DAY

Wayne and Brooks come walking down the street and walk up to the Harley dealership.

Brooks opens the door as Wayne walks in slightly limping.

INT. HARLEY DEALERSHIP - DAY

Brooks is looking around as Wayne wanders around the showroom. There are several salesmen talking to customers. Brooks stops at a bike and looks at it. A Young Salesman walks up to Brooks.

YOUNG SALESMAN

Can I help you?

Brooks shrugs his shoulders and motions the Young Salesman away. The Young Salesman walks away. Brooks continues to

look around. Brooks walks up to a bike with a full fairing and saddle bags. Brooks kneels down to get a better look at the engine.

The Young Salesman watches from a distance.

Brooks stands up and gets on the bike. Brooks settles into the seat and balances the bike under him. Brooks smiles. The Young Salesman walks up.

YOUNG SALESMAN

Are you here to buy a bike or just sit on them?

Brooks gives the Young Salesman a look of dislike and goes back to looking at the bike and smiling. The Young Salesman gets frustrated.

YOUNG SALESMAN

Look, these bikes are expensive. We can't have people sitting on them. You could drop it.

Brooks ignores the Young Salesman who is getting more frustrated. Wayne walks up.

WAYNE

Is there a problem?

The Young Salesman looks Wayne up and down.

YOUNG SALESMAN

Yes. This guy should have asked before he started climbing on the bikes. I'm going to need him to get off this one.

The Young Salesman Addresses Brooks.

YOUNG SALESMAN

You're going to have to get off the bike.

The Young Salesman grabs the handlebars and shakes the bike to get Brooks's attention. Brooks stops smiling.

WAYNE

Could we talk to another salesman?

The Young Salesman has his hand locked on the handlebars.

YOUNG SALESMAN

There's no one else available.

Wayne looks around.

WAYNE (LOUDLY)

Excuse me.

Several people stop and look at Wayne. Brooks and the Young Salesman begin a slight tug of war over control of the bike.

WAYNE (VERY LOUDLY)

Excuse me, is there any former service members here?

A Woman pops up in a cubicle and looks at Wayne.

The Woman comes walking down the aisle as Brooks and the Young Salesman tug back and forth on the handlebars.

WOMAN

Can I help you?

The Woman puts her hand on the handlebars and looks at the Young Salesman.

WOMAN

Enough. Go see if you can help someone else.

The Young Salesman takes his hand off the handlebars and slowly walks away. Brooks goes back to admiring the bike.

WAYNE

My friend is interested in buying a bike. He was shot through the throat, so he can't talk.

WOMAN

You guys were in the middle east?

WAYNE

Yes, we're rehabbing at the VA hospital down the street. We walked down to look at bikes.

WOMAN

So, you both are looking for bikes?

WAYNE

No, just him.

The Woman looks at Brooks who is smiling back.

WOMAN

Have you ridden a big bike before?

Brooks motions with his hand as if to say Yes and No.

WOMAN

Are you looking to ride long distances and travel with the bike?

Brooks motions with his hand as if to say Yes and No.

WAYNE

He wants to ride the bike home to Texas.

Brooks shakes his head Yes.

WOMAN

Well that will take a few days. Are you looking for a big bike like this?

Brooks motions with his hand as if to say Yes and No.

WOMAN

Well let me show you something a little lighter.

The Woman motions down the aisle. Brooks gets off the bike and begins walking down the aisle. The Woman and Wayne follow.

WAYNE

Were you in the service?

WOMAN

No. I lost my Husband in Grenada, Marine Corp, and I lost my Son in Iraq, Army, special forces two year ago.

WAYNE

I'm sorry. I'm an Army Medic and was wounded along with him during a Navy Seals operation.

WOMAN

The dealership was my Son's idea because him and his Father loved to ride.

Brooks stops next to a beautiful red bike with small saddlebags on the back. Wayne and the Woman walk up. Brooks motions as if to present the bike to Wayne. Wayne looks at the bike, smiles and nods his head.

WAYNE

That's a nice bike.

Brooks gestures to the seat of the bike as if to ask permission to sit on it.

WOMAN

Sure, have a seat.

Brooks sits on the bike and again gestures as if to present the bike to Wayne. Wayne smiles.

WAYNE

It's nice.

Brooks holds his hand up and rubs his fingers together to indicate money.

WOMAN

This bike is used. The gentleman who purchased the bike owned it for a year and retired. He wanted to travel so he traded it in on a full dresser.

Brooks holds his hand up again and rubs his fingers together to indicate money.

WOMAN

I'd have to check but I think we gave the original owner just over ten thousand as a trade in. I'll make this easy. You pay the taxes and charges and I'll sell it to you for the trade in value.

Brooks smiles. Brooks motions with his hands as if to sign a check.

WAYNE

I think you have a deal.

WOMAN

Well, let's go do some paperwork.

EXT. VA HOSPITAL - DAY

Wayne and Brooks approach the VA hospital entrance. Wayne is limping. Brooks walks over to the bench and picks up Wayne's cane and looks at Wayne. Wayne reaches out his hand and Brooks throws the cane behind the bench.

Wayne stands there with a surprised look on his face.

Brooks shakes his head No, walks to the door and opens it for Wayne. Wayne limps into VA hospital.

WAYNE

Asshole.

Brooks smiles and follows Wayne in.

INT. VA HOSPITAL CAFETERIA - DAY

Wayne comes walking away from the serving line with his tray. Wayne is limping slightly. Wayne sees Brooks sitting at a table eating and walks over to Brooks's table.

WAYNE

Can I sit down.

Brooks motions for Wayne to have a seat. Wayne sits down and begins to eat.

WAYNE

You know my leg still hurts from walking so far Yesterday.

Brooks smiles.

WAYNE

You're really going to ride that bike all the way to Texas?

Brooks shakes his head No.

WAYNE

I thought that's what you meant Yesterday?

Brooks pulls the tablet close and begins to write then spins the tablet and Wayne reads.

WAYNE

"Not going straight home, road trip".

Wayne looks at Brooks.

WAYNE

Where are you going?

Brooks stops and looks out the window for a moment. Brooks writes on the table and spins it. Wayne reads.

WAYNE

"Need time".

Wayne looks at Brooks.

WAYNE

All I want to do is get home. Don't you want to see your family?

Brooks writes again and spins the tablet. Wayne reads.

WAYNE

"Yes, but I want them to see me, not a Navy Seal"

Wayne looks at Brooks and Brooks has a slight smile on his face and soft eyes.

WAYNE

I think I understand.

Brooks shakes his head Yes.

WAYNE

All I have been dreaming about for the past few months is getting home, going out, blowing off steam with friends. You build up all these expectations for when you get home and when it gets close, that's all you can think about. Now that I'm wounded, I'll have a few months before I have to go back. So I'm going to make the most of it.

Wayne begins to eat as Brooks looks at Wayne with a concerned look.

EXT. VA HOSPITAL - DAY

Wayne comes walking out and walks behind the bench. Wayne picks up his cane and turns around to see Brooks standing there watching him. Brooks holds his hands up as if to say What. Wayne looks at the cane then back at Brooks.

WAYNE

This isn't for me. I'm going to hand it back in so the next person can use it.

Brooks point down the walk and makes the gesture for riding a motorcycle.

WAYNE

You going to pick up your bike?

Brooks shakes his head Yes. Brooks motions for Wayne to come with him.

WAYNE

You want me to go with you?

Brooks shakes his head Yes.

WAYNE

How do I get back?

Brooks motions behind his back.

WAYNE

I'll go with you but I'm not riding
bitch.

Wayne and Brooks both smile. Wayne leans the cane against the bench and they both begin to walk.

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK - DAY

Wayne and Brooks are walking down the sidewalk. Wayne is tense as he walks.

WAYNE

Boy I can not wait to get out of here.
I'm going stir crazy sitting around
with nothing to do.

Brooks holds his hand against his chest, points to Wayne then holds his hands out gesturing towards the sidewalk.

WAYNE

Walking?

Brooks shakes his head Yes.

WAYNE

I did enough walking over there.

Wayne and Brooks continue to walk.

WAYNE

I just want to get out of here.

Wayne has a sad look on his face. Brooks reaches into his pocket and pulls out a phone. Brooks types on the phone and presses the screen.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

What, you don't like my company?

Wayne looks at the phone.

WAYNE

What's that? A text reader?

Brooks types.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

Yes.

WAYNE

How long you had that?

Brooks types.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

A few days.

WAYNE

You've had it a few days and you've been using hand gestures and writing notes?

Brooks types.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

I can't figure out how to change it to a male voice and I didn't want people to laugh.

Wayne laughs and Brooks smiles. Brooks types.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
Hi, my name is JOE Brooks.

Wayne reaches out his hand and Joe shakes it.

WAYNE
Wayne Lopez.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
Nice to meet you.

Wayne laughs again.

WAYNE
I see what you mean, it is funny.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
Asshole.

Wayne laughs again and Joe smiles.

INT. HARLEY DEALER - DAY

Joe is sitting at the desk with the Woman owner signing papers.

Joe looks over and sees Wayne admiring a bike.

WOMAN
We're done. You're all set.

The Woman hands Joe the keys and an envelope. Joe gets up and walks over to where Wayne is admiring a bike.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
Nice Bike.

WAYNE
It sure is.

Joe looks at Wayne looking at the bike.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
You should come with me.

Wayne looks at Joe.

WAYNE
Where?

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
On a road trip, then to Texas.

WAYNE
I'm not riding bitch to Texas.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
No, buy a bike and come with me.

Wayne looks at the bike again.

WAYNE
I can't buy a bike and ride to Texas
with you. I'm going back to Afghanistan
in a few months.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
Sure you can. I could really use your
help on the way.

WAYNE
No. I have to get to San Diego.
Besides, I'd have to store it until I
got back.

Joe motions to the Woman to come over. The Woman comes walking over.

WOMAN

Is there something else you need?

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

Can he rent a bike to ride to Texas and leave it at dealership there?

The Woman looks at Wayne.

WOMAN

I'm sure we could come up with something. It would have to be a used bike.

WAYNE

I can't.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

Yes, you can.

WAYNE

I can't.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

Yes, you can.

Wayne looks at the bike he was admiring for a moment.

WAYNE

What about this bike.

The Woman looks at the bike then at Wayne.

WOMAN

Your Friend said you were wounded too.

Wayne gestures to his wounds.

WAYNE

I was shot in the arm, side and leg but no permanent damage.

Wayne looks at Joe.

WOMAN

I think we can work something out. You were shot three times. Didn't they teach you how to duck?

Joe and the Woman smile. Wayne has a surprised look on his face.

WOMAN

Come over to the desk when you are ready.

The Woman walks away. Wayne looks at the bike and then at Joe.

WAYNE

So, we're doing this?

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

You bet your ass we are.

Joe turns to follow the Woman.

WAYNE

So, where did you say you're going.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

I didn't.

EXT. VA HOSPITAL - DAY

Wayne is wiping off his bike in the parking lot when Joe walks up.

WAYNE

What did the Doc say?

Joe pulls out his phone and types.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
Doc said Today if I want. You?

WAYNE
Same here. Doc said I can sign myself
out onto Med-leave whenever I want.

Joe holds his hands up as if to say Well.

WAYNE
You want to leave now?

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
The sooner the better.

Wayne puts the rag in the saddle bag on the back of the
bike.

WAYNE
Well get your gear and let's go.

EXT. OPEN HIGHWAY - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding down the highway. Wayne raises his
hand to get Joe's attention. Wayne makes a gesture that he
needs food and points to the exit.

EXT. OPEN HIGHWAY - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding down the highway. They ride under
a sign that reads "81 south next exit". Joe points to the
sign.

EXT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - DAY

Wayne and Joe pull into the parking lot and park. Wayne and
Joe get off their bikes.

WAYNE
Boy I'm hungry.

Wayne begins to walk toward the restaurant, Joe does not follow. Wayne stops.

WAYNE
Aren't you hungry?

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
I am, but I can't eat here. I have to stick to soft foods.

WAYNE
You want to go to a different place?

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
No, go ahead. I have food in my bags. I'm good till dinner.

Wayne turns and walks towards the restaurant.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Wayne walks up to the counter. A Clerk steps up.

CLERK
Can I help you.

Wayne looks at the menu behind the Clerk.

WAYNE
Yes, I'll take a number two with a sprite.

The Clerk enters the order.

CLERK
That will be 4.89 please.

Wayne pulls money from his pocket and pays. The Clerk hands Wayne his change and receipt.

CLERK

Your number is 72.

WAYNE

Where's your bathrooms?

The Clerk gestures towards the bathroom sign. Wayne walks towards the bathroom.

EXT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - DAY

Joe is standing near the bike playing with his phone. You can hear the phone says, "good morning". Joe types some more and the phone repeats "good morning". Behind Joe you see a police car pulling in the parking lot.

On the other side of the parking lot another police car pulls in.

Behind Joe you see a POLICE OFFICER get out of his car and walk toward Joe.

POLICE OFFICER 1 (CALMLY)

How you doing?

Joe looks at the Police Officer and goes back to typing on his phone.

A second POLICE OFFICER approaches Joe.

POLICE OFFICER 1 (CALMLY)

Can I help you?

Joe looks at Police Officer 1 and then at Police Officer 2.

POLICE OFFICER 2 (AGRESSIVLY)

You should answer him.

Joe continues to type.

POLICE OFFICER 1 (CALMLY)

Can you show me some ID?

Joe does not look up and keeps typing.

POLICE OFFICER 2 (AGRESSIVLY)
I suggest you put the phone away and
show us some ID.

Joe's getting angry and looks up at Police Officer 2.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Wayne comes walking out of the bathroom and down the hall.
A male employee steps in front of Wayne while Wayne is
walking, and Wayne stops. Wayne sees his manager's badge.

MANAGER
Can I help you.

WAYNE
No, I'm fine.

MANAGER
Are you going to order something or are
you just here to use the bathroom?

WAYNE (ANGRY)
Really? Are you kidding me? Is it
because I'm Mexican or do you always
hassle wounded Vets?

Wayne pulls he receipt from his pocket and shows it to the
Manager. The Manager puts his hands up as if he does not
want any trouble and walks away.

WAYNE
Asshole.

An employee mopping the floor hears Wayne and looks at him.
Wayne looks back.

EMPLOYEE
It's not his fault. The owner has been
riding him to keep the kids and
vagrants from coming in and trashing
the bathrooms.

WAYNE
He didn't have to be an asshole.

EMPLOYEE

He's not. He's a Vet also. He's been back a year and just got orders to deploy in two weeks. His reserve unit is going back.

The Employee goes back to mopping the floor.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Wayne walks up to the counter. The Manager brings Wayne's order to the counter and sets it down. The Manager has his head down and does not make eye contact.

MANAGER

I want to apologize. I'm sorry for what happened.

Wayne reaches for the bag and pulls it across the counter.

WAYNE (STRONGLY)

Hey, look at me.

The Manager slowly raises his head and looks Wayne in the eye. Wayne reaches out his hand and the Manager slowly takes Wayne's hand to shake it.

WAYNE

We're cool. That guy over there said you're in the service and have orders to head over seas?

MANAGER

Yes, Army. My unit is heading back in two weeks.

WAYNE

You be safe over there.

Wayne smiles and lets the Manager's hand go. The Manager smiles back. Wayne turns and walks towards the door.

Something in the parking lot catches Wayne's attention. Wayne looks through the window and sees two police cars in

the parking lot and two police officers holding Joe to the ground.

WAYNE
What the hell.

Wayne runs toward the restaurant door.

EXT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - DAY

Wayne comes running up to where the Police Officer's have Joe on the ground.

WAYNE (YELLING)
What the hell's going on?

POLICE OFFICER 1
Sir, stay back and let us do our job.

Police Officer 1 handcuffs Joe and both Police Officer's stand up.

WAYNE (LOUDLY)
What the hell are you two doing? What law did he break?

POLICE OFFICER 1
Sir, he did not follow a lawful order to show us his ID.

WAYNE (LOUDLY)
Well unless he broke a law that's an unlawful order.

Police Officer 1 looks at Police Officer 2 then back at Wayne with a surprised look.

POLICE OFFICER 1
Sir, we asked him for his ID, and he did not respond.

WAYNE (LOUDLY)
He can't you asshole. He's a wounded Vet that just came back from Afghanistan. He was shot in the neck.

Wayne looks down at Joe and Joe looks at Wayne.

WAYNE

Where's his phone?

Wayne looks around and sees the phone lying on the ground. Wayne picks up the phone and reads the screen. Wayne holds the phone out towards Police Officer 1 and presses a button on the screen.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

I can't talk. I was wounded in Afghanistan. I'm in the Navy. My ID is in my wallet.

WAYNE

Asshole.

Police Officer 1 looks at Police Officer 2 and then at Joe lying on the ground.

WAYNE

Did he resist you?

POLICE OFFICER 1

No.

WAYNE

Fine, then get him off the ground and remove the handcuffs?

Police Officers 1 helps Joe to his feet and removes the handcuffs. Joe smiles at Wayne and Wayne smiles back.

EXT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - DAY

Joe is sitting on his bike. One Police car is gone, and Wayne is talking to Police Officer 1 at the Police car.

POLICE OFFICER 1

Sorry, but we got a call that a biker was walking around the parking lot talking in a weird voice and may be on drugs. When we approached, he would not respond or show us his ID.

WAYNE

With all the police shootings, who's going to be dumb enough to reach behind their back while being confronted by two cops.

Police Officer 1 looks down at the ground then back at Wayne.

POLICE OFFICER 1

Well he's lucky he did not resist. We can take care of our selves.

Wayne points at Joe sitting on his bike smiling.

WAYNE

That man's a Navy Seal. A few months ago, he saved Me and most of his platoon from being ambushed.

Wayne points at Police Officer 1.

WAYNE

You're the lucky one.

Wayne turns and walks away.

EXT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - DAY

Wayne walks up to his bike and picks up his food and drink off the ground. Joe is sucking apple sauce out of a squeeze pouch. Joe smiles at Wayne. Wayne looks around and sees a bench and table under some trees next to the parking lot. Wayne looks at Joe. Wayne holds up his bag and drink.

WAYNE

Can I eat now?

Wayne walks towards the table. Joe gets off his bike and follows.

EXT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - DAY

Wayne sits down at the table and begins taking his food out of the bag. Joe walks up and sits down across from Wayne. Wayne begins to eat his burger.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
That wasn't my fault.

WAYNE
No, it wasn't. Those two cops were out to hassle a biker.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
I knew you would be helpful.

Wayne looks at Joe and smiles. Joe smiles back. Wayne looks at Joe's phone.

WAYNE
You really need to change the voice on that thing.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
That's what I was trying to do when the two cops walked up.

EXT. OPEN HIGHWAY - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding through the Shenandoah valley. You can see mountains in the background as they ride.

EXT. OPEN HIGHWAY - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding down the highway. You can see a water tower painted like a basket of apples as they ride by.

EXT. OPEN HIGHWAY - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding down the highway. Joe points to an exit marked with George Washington National Forest. Wayne and Joe lean their bikes to make the turn off the highway.

EXT. MOTEL - DAY

Wayne and Joe pull up to the motel office and stop. Wayne looks at Joe and points to the office.

WAYNE

Now I know why you wanted me to come.

Joe and Wayne smile. Wayne gets off his bike.

WAYNE

One room or two?

Joe pulls out his phone and begins to type.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

One, unless you're shy.

WAYNE

I have been known to snore.

Joe types on his phone and then points to his throat.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

So do I, now.

WAYNE

I suppose I'm paying?

Joe types.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

You pay for the room and I'll pay for dinner.

WAYNE

Fair enough.

Wayne turns and walks towards the Motel office.

EXT. MOTEL - DAY

Wayne is sitting in a chair outside their room. Joe comes walking out and sits next to Wayne.

WAYNE

So, what do you want to do for dinner?

Joe points across the street to a steakhouse.

WAYNE

I could go for a steak. The hospital food was awful. Wait, can you eat a steak?

Joe shake his head No.

WAYNE

So, you can't eat steak, but you want to go to a steak house?

Joe shakes his head Yes.

INT. STEAKHOUSE - NIGHT

Wayne and Joe are sitting in a booth at the steakhouse looking at menus. Joe is typing on his phone. The WAITRESS walks up.

WAITRESS

Are you guys ready to order?

Wayne looks at Joe and Joe nods Yes.

WAYNE

I'll have the New York strip, medium, baked potato with sour cream and a coke.

The waitress looks at Joe and Joe presses the button on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE DEEPER TONE)

I'll have a side of mashed potatoes, a side of cream corn and a side of carrots.

The waitress and Wayne both have odd looks on their face.

WAITRESS

Ok, I'll put your order in.

The waitress is still giving Joe an odd look as she walks away.

WAYNE

Is that suppose to be a man's voice?

Joe shrugs then types.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE DEEPER TONE)

That's all I can do is lower the pitch.

WAYNE

Well now it sounds like a female east Germany weightlifter.

Joe and Wayne both smile. Wayne gets up.

WAYNE

I have to use the bathroom.

Wayne walks away.

INT. STEAKHOUSE - NIGHT

Wayne is standing by the kitchen entrance when their Waitress walks out. Wayne hold up his hand and she stops.

WAYNE

Can I talk to the cook?

WAITRESS

Just a minute.

The waitress walks into the kitchen and returns with the COOK.

COOK

What can I do for you?

WAYNE

My Friend and I just got back from Afghanistan. He took a bullet to the neck and cannot eat whole foods yet. Is there any way you could chop up or grind up a steak and mix it with mash potatoes?

COOK

I could probably do something. How does he want his steak cooked?

WAYNE

I don't know? Medium.

The Waitress looks at the cook.

WAITRESS

I'll show you the order.

Wayne walks away.

INT. STEAKHOUSE - NIGHT

Wayne and Joe are sitting in their booth when their Waitress walks up with their food. She lays out the dishes on the table and puts Joe's in a circle with an empty spot in the middle. The Waitress steps aside and the Cook places a plate in the empty spot in front of Joe. Joe looks at the pile of mashed potatoes with tan, brown and pink lines running through the mashed potatoes. Joe holds his hands out as if to say what is this and looks at the Cook.

COOK

Your Friend said you could not eat whole foods because of your wound. So, I made you this.

Joe looks at Wayne.

WAYNE

Give it a try.

Joe takes a fork full and places it in his mouth. Joe chews a few times and swallows. Joe make a face as if he has just

eaten the most delicious steak he has ever had. Joe reaches for his phone and begins to type.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE DEEPER TONE)
That is incredible, that you.

The cook gives Joe an odd look.

COOK
You're welcome.

The Cook and Waitress walk away. Joe digs into the mound of mashed potatoes.

INT. STEAKHOUSE - NIGHT

Wayne and Joe are finished eating. Joe gestures with both hands towards the plate then towards Wayne and mouths "Thank You".

WAYNE
Was it good?

Joe closes his eyes and holds his hands up as if he is meditating.

WAYNE
I'm glad you enjoyed it because you said you would pay for dinner.

Joe holds one hand up as if to say no problem.

Joe looks around and sees the Waitress. Joe gestures as if he is signing with a pen. The Waitress walks over to the table and places their check on the table facing down and smiles.

WAITRESS
Have a good evening.

The Waitress walks away, and Joe picks up the check. Joe looks at the check for a moment then turns the check around so Wayne can read it.

The check reads. "Thank you for your services". The next line has a big dollar sign and a zero. The next line reads "Your meal is on us".

As Wayne and Joe get out of the booth Joe sees the Waitress and mouths "Thank You". The Waitress nods. Wayne reaches into his pocket and pulls out his money.

WAYNE

We need to leave a tip.

Joe holds his hand up to stop Wayne. Joe reaches into his pocket and pulls out his money.

Joe goes through the bills and pulls out a fifty-dollar bill then lays it on the table. Joe gestures to Wayne to leave.

EXT. STEAKHOUSE - NIGHT

Wayne and Joe walk out. Wayne places his hands on his stomach.

WAYNE

That was a great meal.

Joe types on his phone and points down the road to a bar with music coming from it.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE DEEPER TONE)

Now for a beer.

Wayne looks down the road to the bar then back at Joe.

WAYNE

You read my mind.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Wayne and Joe make their way to the bar and sit down.

Wayne spins in his seat and looks around the room. The bar tender walks up. Wayne spins back around.

WAYNE

Two draft beers. I'm buying.

The bartender walks away. Wayne looks at Joe. Joe points to himself and gestures with his hand to indicate he is buying. Wayne pulls a ten-dollar bill out of his pocket and slaps it down on the bar. Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE DEEPER TONE)

I'm buying.

Wayne just sits there.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE DEEPER TONE)

I'm buying. I'm buying. I'm buying.

Wayne looks around and now several people are looking at Joe strangely.

WAYNE

Ok, you can buy the next round. You have got to change the voice on that thing.

The bartender walks up, places two draft beers on the bar and takes Joe's ten-dollar bill. Both Wayne and Joe pick up their glasses. Joe holds his out and Wayne clinks Joe's glass.

WAYNE

Now let's see. "May the rest of the trip be much calmer".

Wayne and Joe both smile and spin around in their chairs to look around the bar.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Wayne and Joe are still sitting at the bar. They are watching the football game on the overhead TV. There are two empty glasses sitting on the bar in front of them. There is a loud group behind them. They are standing around a pool table betting on the game. You can see paper money laying on the side of the pool table. The bartender walks up. Wayne sees him.

WAYNE

Another round.

Wayne goes back to watching TV. A scuffle breaks out over the pool game. Two of the men begin to fight.

Wayne and Joe spin around in their seats to see what is going on as the crowd spreads and the two men who are fighting move closer to Wayne and Joe. One Man pushed the other Man, and he ends up falling against the bar near Joe.

As the Man pulls himself up, he reaches behind his back and pulls out a gun.

Joe see the gun and jumps off his stool.

Joe grabs the Man's hand, knocks the gun out of his hand, strikes the Man in the throat and flips the man onto a table. The table collapses and the Man falls to the floor.

Joe stops to see if anyone is coming towards him as the Man lays there on the floor.

Joe reaches down and picks up the gun. Joe drops the magazine out of the gun and pulls the slide off. Joe looks around and hands the parts of the gun to the bartender.

A GIRL leans down next to the Man lying on the floor.

GIRL

He's not breathing.

Joe is standing next to Wayne who has gotten off his stool. Joe turns and pushes Wayne toward the door. Wayne looks at Joe.

GIRL (LOUDLY)

He's not breathing.

Joe pushes Wayne again towards the door and motions with his head toward the door.

WAYNE

We can't go. I have to help him.

Wayne breaks free of Joe's grip and moves towards the Man on the floor.

Wayne kneels next to the man and checks the Man's airway and pulse. Wayne looks at Joe and then back at the Man lying on the floor. Wayne looks at the bartender.

WAYNE

I need a clean towel and bottle of Jack Daniels.

The bartender reaches under the bar and retrieves a clean towel and bottle. The bartender hands the towel and bottle to a girl standing next to the bar. The girl brings them to Wayne.

Wayne pours whiskey on the man's neck and wipes it off with the towel.

WAYNE

Does anyone have a sharp pocketknife?

A man standing next to Wayne pulls a small knife from a sheath clipped to his belt and hands it to Wayne. Wayne pours whiskey on the knife and wipes it off with the towel.

Wayne finds the right spot on the Man's neck and plunges the knife into his neck then pulls the knife out. Wayne pulls the pouring spout out of the whiskey bottle and pushes the pourer's small end into the hole in the Man's neck. There is complete silence in the bar. Wayne pushes on the Man's chest and you can hear air escape through the pourer spout as the Man begins to breathe through the pourer spout.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Paramedics are carrying the Man out of the bar on a stretcher.

Wayne and Joe are sitting on stools at the bar when a Sheriff's Officer walks up holding a small note pad.

SHERIFF'S OFFICER

We ran the serial number on the gun,
and it's stolen. We have a half dozen
witnesses that say the Man started the
fight then pulled a gun.

The Sheriff's Officer points to Joe.

SHERIFF'S OFFICER

They also said if it wasn't for you, we
probable would have had several people
going to the hospital.

WAYNE

Can we go?

SHERIFF'S OFFICER

I've got all your information, so ya,
you can go.

Joe motions with his head towards the door.

Wayne and Joe walk towards the door.

EXT. MOTEL POOL AREA - NIGHT

Joe is swimming in the pool while Wayne sits in a chair by
the pool. Joe swims to the side of the pool as the motel
Manager walks up.

MANAGER

You guys can use the pool up till
midnight. Turn the lights off when
you're done. Oh, there was some trouble
at the bar down the street so keep an
eye out for troublemakers.

Wayne and Joe both smile.

WAYNE

Will do. Thanks for the warning.

Wayne looks at Joe.

WAYNE

Boy what a day. You know why you were being detained at the restaurant I had a manager in the restaurant confront me about using the bathroom.

Wayne lays his head back and looks up into the sky.

WAYNE

I hope the rest of the trip is not like Today.

EXT. MOTEL - DAY

Joe is closing the saddlebags on his motorcycle.

Wayne comes walking out of the motel and closes the door behind him.

Wayne comes walking up to the bikes and gets on his bike. Joe gets on his bike. Wayne looks over at Joe.

WAYNE

How bout we put Yesterday behind us.

Joe shakes his head yes.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

From a distance you can see Wayne and Joe riding up a mountain road.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Wayne and Joe are approaching the top of the mountain. Joe abruptly turns across the road and pulls into an overlook parking lot. Wayne goes a little bit further and makes a U turn to come back.

Wayne heads back and passes a sign that reads Appalachian Trail.

Wayne pulls into the overlook parking lot. Joe is already off his bike and walking along the retaining wall looking out into the valley.

Wayne parks his bike and gets off.

Wayne walks up next to Joe.

WAYNE

How bout you warn me the next time you
want to pull off the road.

Joe stretches out his arms as if to say look at this. Wayne
and Joe stand there looking out into the vast valley.

Wayne turns and sits down on the retaining wall and looks
arounds. Wayne points towards the top of the mountain.

WAYNE

There is a sign up there that says
Appalachian Trail.

Joe pulls out his phone and begins typing.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE DEEPER TONE)

You want to hike some of the trail?

Wayne rubs his leg.

WAYNE

No, my leg is stiff enough from riding.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE DEEPER TONE)

Pussy.

Joe walks past Wayne towards the bike.

WAYNE

I was right, I prefer the high pitch
female voice.

Wayne and Joe both smile.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

From a distance you can see Wayne and Joe riding down a mountain road.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding down a twisting mountain road and pass a sign the reads "Welcome to West Virginia".

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

The bikes are parked at the pumps. Joe is leaning against his bike.

Wayne comes walking out of the gas station eating a burrito and carrying a six pack of water bottles.

Wayne walks up to the bikes.

WAYNE

Are you sure you don't want a burrito?

Joe shakes his head No and holds up a squeeze pouch.

WAYNE

Suit yourself.

Wayne sits the burrito on the bike seat and begins putting the water bottles into his saddle bags.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding across a steel bridge over a river. After crossing the bridge Wayne and Joe pass a sign that reads "Lexington 121 miles".

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding down the highway. They pass a sign that reads "Lexington 12 miles". Joe is ahead of Wayne and puts on his turn signal. Joe pulls into a small Motel followed by Wayne.

EXT. MOTEL - DAY

Wayne pulls up next to Joe who is parked outside the office. Wayne turns off his bike.

WAYNE

You want me to go in?

Joe shakes his head no and holds up his phone. Wayne looks around the small motel.

Joe comes walking out carrying a key. Joe walks up to the bikes and points to the rooms. Joe gets on his bike and starts it up.

EXT. MOTEL - DAY

Joe and Wayne pull up in front of room 13 and park. Joe gets off his bike and walks up to room 13 door and opens the door.

Wayne looks at Joe.

WAYNE

Room 13? You really want to take our chances by staying in room 13?

Joe looks back at Wayne with a smile on his face then walks into the room.

EXT. MOTEL - DAY

Wayne and Joe are sitting in chairs outside room 13.

WAYNE

So, what do you want to do for dinner?

Joe takes a long whiff of the air then puts his finger on his nose. Wayne takes a whiff also.

WAYNE

That smells like good Bar-B-Que. I'm going to find out where that's coming from.

Wayne gets up and walks towards the office.

INT. MOTEL OFFICE - DAY

Wayne walks in. The Manager FRANK is behind the counter.

FRANK (SOUTHERN DRAWL)
Afternoon.

WAYNE
Afternoon. My friend and I are staying
in room 13 and we were wondering where
the smell of Bar-B-Que is coming from?

FRANK (SOUTHERN DRAWL)
You both in the service?

WAYNE
Yes, we are.

FRANK (SOUTHERN DRAWL)
I could tell. I spent time in Vietnam.

WAYNE
Thank you for you service.

FRANK (SOUTHERN DRAWL)
You too. So, you're looking for Bar-B-
Que?

WAYNE
Yes, that smell is great.

From behind the office wall you can hear music begin.

FRANK (SOUTHERN DRAWL)
You can find the Bar-B-Que and music
coming from behind the motel at the
VFW. They started having a party
several years ago and it's turned into
a sort of community gathering.
Everyone's back there and you're
welcome to join. Just make a donation
at the VFW.

WAYNE
Thank you.

EXT. MOTEL OFFICE - DAY

Wayne walks out of the office.

EXT. MOTEL - DAY

Wayne comes walking back to where Joe is sitting and sits down.

WAYNE

The VFW behind the motel is having a Bar-B-Que for the town. All we have to do is make a donation to the VFW and we can join them. What do you think?

Joe stands up and holds his hand out for Wayne to join him.

WAYNE

Let's go.

Wayne gets up and they both walk away.

EXT. VFW - DAY

It's afternoon. The band is playing and next to the VFW is a large white tent setup with tables. Approximately a hundred men, women and children are eating, playing horseshoes and dancing. Wayne and Joe walk up to a small tent setup out front with two women sitting at a table.

WOMAN (SOUTHERN DRAWL)

You two don't look like you're from around here. How can I help you?

WAYNE

We're not. We're just passing through and the manager at the motel sent us over. How much is it?

WOMAN 1 (SOUTHERN DRAWL)

We'll, whatever you want to donate to the VFW.

Joe reaches in his pocket and Wayne puts his hand up to stop him. Wayne reaches into his pocket and pull out a number of bills. Wayne pull out a one-hundred-dollar bill and places it on the table.

WAYNE

That's for both of us.

WOMAN 1 (SOUTHERN DRAWL)

Well thank you very much.

WOMAN 2 (SOUTHERN DRAWL)

You both come over here and I'll put your wristbands on.

Wayne and Joe move over to Woman 2 and she begins to put a wristband on Joe while smiling at Joe.

EXT. VFW - DAY

The food line is packed as Wayne and Joe walk through the food line getting their plates filled with several different foods.

EXT. VFW - DAY

Wayne and Joe are sitting at a table with several locals eating.

Joe keeps looking across the tent at an attractive woman.

Kids are running around playing and the dance floor under the tent is full.

EXT. VFW - DAY

It's late in the afternoon. Kids are playing in the background. Wayne is playing horseshoes in the side yard of the VFW with some locals. Wayne looks around and sees Joe dancing with the attractive woman he was looking at earlier.

EXT. VFW - DAY

It's night. Wayne is sitting at a table under the tent with several locals drinking beer.

LOCAL 1 (SOUTHERN DRAWL)
So, where have you been?

WAYNE
I've been stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

LOCAL 2 (SOUTHERN DRAWL)
Where were you shot?

WAYNE
The first time was in Iraq. The bullet went right through my calf. It felt like I had been stuck with a hot poker. The second time was a month ago in Afghanistan. I took one in the leg, shoulder, and side.

LOCAL 1 (SOUTHERN DRAWL)
So, did they send you home because of the wounds?

Wayne looks around for Joe.

WAYNE
They did, but once I'm healed, I'll be heading back.

LOCAL 2 (SOUTHERN DRAWL)
Doesn't sound right, you being wounded twice and have to go back.

WAYNE
Well, my enlistment's not up for another fourteen months.

Wayne looks around again for Joe. Wayne gets up and pushes his chair in.

WAYNE

I'm going to go look for my friend.
It's been nice talking to you
gentlemen. You have a nice evening.

LOCAL 2 (SOUTHERN DRAWL)

You too.

EXT. VFW TENT - NIGHT

Wayne is walking through the tent looking for Joe. Most of the kids are gone and the dancefloor is half full of couples. Wayne stops at the end of the tent and picks up a beer from a tub setting on a table then walks out of the tent.

EXT. VFW - NIGHT

Wayne comes walking away from the party. The tent where the donations were being taken is empty.

Wayne looks around but no Joe.

EXT. MOTEL - NIGHT

Wayne comes walking up to room 13. Wayne opens the door, and the room is dark. Wayne turns on the lights then sits down in a chair outside the room. Wayne opens the beer and takes a drink.

Wayne looks over at the bikes and Joe's bike is still sitting there.

EXT. MOTEL - DAY

It's morning and the sun has just come up. Wayne comes out of room 13 in just his pants carrying a bottle of water. Wayne sits down in a chair, rubs his wounded leg and take a drink.

Wayne looks around the motel. Wayne hears the door to the room next to theirs open. Wayne looks and an attractive woman comes walking out. She has on a sun dress and cowboy boots.

Wayne straightens his shoulders and sits up.

Wayne looks at the Woman standing there stretching her arms up high. Joe comes walking out of the room behind her in his bare feet with his shirt unbuttoned, carrying his boots.

You can see Wayne as his body relaxes and he slumps back in the chair.

The Woman turns around and puts her arms around Joe. She kisses Joe then begins to walk away. The Woman turns as she is walking away with a sly smile on her face.

WOMAN (SOUTHERN DRAWL)

I hope you had a good time.

Joe nods his head and lifts his boots as to gesture goodbye. The Woman turns and continues to walk away.

Joe turns and begins to walk towards room 13 and sees Wayne sitting in the chair. Joe stops and smiles.

Wayne shakes his head No.

Joe walks up and sits down. Joe drops his boots in front of him and leans back in the chair. Joe points to the bottle of water Wayne has in his hand. Wayne hands Joe the bottle of water and Joe drinks it down.

WAYNE

I wondered where you got to last night.

Joe smiles.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding through the countryside with bluegrass horse farms in the background. An Army helicopter flies overhead. Wayne points towards the helicopter and Joe looks up.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

Wayne is filling the gas tank on his bike while Joe fiddles on his phone.

WAYNE

What are you looking for?

Joe holds up the phone and Wayne can see a map on the phone. Joe goes back to looking at the map.

A C-130 flies over the gas station. Both Wayne and Joe watch it fly over.

WAYNE

I've seen several military aircraft.
There must be an airbase around here.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding down the highway. It's a beautiful day. The sun is high, and the sky is blue. Joe points to the upcoming exit and both lean their bikes to turn off the highway.

EXT. LOCAL ROAD - DAY

Joe is leading Wayne. Joe puts on his blinker and turns off the road. Wayne follows Joe. Joe pulls up to a guard house. Signs on each side read "Kentucky Air National Guard". Wayne pulls up next to Joe. A guard comes out.

GUARD

I need to see ID.

Wayne and Joe pull out their wallets and show the guard their military ID cards and the Guard waves them in. Wayne and Joe ride through the gates.

EXT. AIRBASE - DAY

Wayne pulls up next to Joe as they ride down the airbase road.

WAYNE (LOUDY)

What are we doing here?

Joe motions for Wayne to follow him.

EXT. AIRBASE - DAY

Joe pull off the road and rides between two large buildings. Wayne follows.

At the end of the alley between the two buildings Joe stops and Wayne pulls up next to Joe.

Wayne looks out to the tarmac of the air station and there, parked on the tarmac, is a line of FA-18 aircraft with the distinct Blue Angels paint schemes and logos on their sides.

Joe pulls in front of one of the building and parks. Wayne does the same. Joe and Wayne get off their bikes. Joe and Wayne both stand there looking at the jets.

WAYNE

What are we doing here?

Joe pulls out his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

I through maybe you would like to take a ride.

Joe stares at the jets. Wayne looks at the jets then back at Joe. Wayne points at the jets.

WAYNE

In one of those?

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

Yes.

Wayne stops pointing.

WAYNE

You can't just buy a ticket and take a ride.

Joe types.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
No. You have to be invited.

Joe pulls a Navy Seal Trident emblem from his jacket pocket and pins it to his jacket.

WAYNE
And how do you propose we get invited?

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
I can't talk so it's up to you.

Wayne begins to get nervous.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
I know you can do it.

Out of the hanger comes a Navy Captain walking towards the jets.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
There's the man to talk to.

WAYNE
You're crazy.

Joe pushes Wayne and Wayne walks towards the Navy Captain. Wayne holds up his hand.

WAYNE
Excuse me.

The Navy Captain stops as Wayne walks up.

Joe watches as Wayne begins to talk. Wayne is animated while he is talking and making hand gestures. The Captain looks over at Joe. After a few moments Wayne motions for Joe to come over.

As Joe walks up the Captain reaches out his hand and Joe shakes his hand.

CAPTAIN

Your friend says you went through BUDS training with Chris Kyle?

Joe looks at Wayne then back to the Captain. Joe shakes his head Yes.

CAPTAIN

Well, I'll see what we can do. Give me a minute.

The Captain walks away. Joe begins to type.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

What did you tell him?

WAYNE

I told him we were on medical leave after being wounded in Afghanistan. That didn't seem to impress him, so I fed him a line about you going through BUDS training with Chris Kyle.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

How did you know I trained with Chris?

Wayne gets a surprised look on his face.

WAYNE

I didn't. Did you?

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

Yes.

Two officers approach Wayne and Joe. One is a Navy Lieutenant and the other is a Marine Corps Captain.

The Navy Lieutenant looks at Joe's trident pin.

NAVY LIEUTENANT

The Captain said you trained with the Legend?

Joe shake his head Yes.

NAVY LIEUTENANT

He also said you were wounded and can not talk so technical we can't take you up. But the Captain said make an exception and give you boys a ride.

The Navy Lieutenant points at Joe.

NAVY LIEUTENANT

You're riding with me. I'm Slider.

The Navy Lieutenant points at Wayne.

NAVY LIEUTENANT

And you're riding with Hammerhead.

The Navy Lieutenant points to the Marine Captain.

NAVY LIEUTENANT

Come with us and we'll get you setup.

WAYNE

Thank you.

MARINE CORPS CAPTAIN

You may want to wait until after the ride before you thank us.

Both Officers smile a sly smile and begin to walk away. Wayne and Joe follow.

INT. FA-18 - DAY

Joe is riding in the rear seat. Joe has a huge smile on his face as the jet climbs and rolls at high speed.

SLIDER (O.S)

How we doing back there?

Joe gives Slider the thumbs up sign.

INT. FA-18 - DAY

Wayne is riding in the back seat. The jet is banking left the banking right. Wayne is smiling.

HAMMERHEAD (O.C)

You Ok?

WAYNE

This is incredible.

HAMMERHEAD (O.C)

Hold that thought.

The jet begins to perform a number of barrel rolls and the smile on Wayne's face begins to fade.

EXT. AIRBASE TARMAC - DAY

Wayne is walking down the tarmac wearing a Blue Angels jumpsuit with Hammerhead as Joe runs up wearing the same jumpsuit. Joe grabs Wayne in a big bearhug and spins Wayne around. Joe lets go and pumps his fist in the air a few times. Wayne is a little pale. Slider walks up.

SLIDER

How'd he do?

HAMMERHEAD

I did my best to make him hurl but he held his own.

WAYNE (SURPRISED)

Wait a minute, you were trying to make me throw up?

HAMMERHEAD

Sure. We do that to all the Army guys.

Joe puts his hand over his mouth as if he's trying not to laugh. Joe reaches out his hand and shakes Hammerheads hand and then shakes Slider's hand. Wayne does the same.

WAYNE

Just the same I want to thank you guys for giving us a ride. I never thought I would get to ride with the Blue Angels.

SLIDER

You guys should head down towards the Ohio River and watch us fly. We're here for Thunder Over Louisville airshow.

Wayne looks at Joe and Joe shake his head Yes.

WAYNE

We'll have to do that. Thanks again.

EXT. AIRBASE TARMAC - DAY

Slider and Hammerhead walk towards the hanger as Wayne and Joe walk towards their bikes. Joe is smiling. Joe looks at Wayne who is getting his color back.

WAYNE

That was incredible. Thank you.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

You talked them into it.

WAYNE

I had to. Once they heard that phone of yours, we would have been laughed off the base.

Joe smiles as Wayne laughs.

EXT. PARK ON THE OHIO RIVER - DAY

The park is full of men, women and children sitting in the grass. Wayne and Joe are sitting in the grass watching the airshow above the river. The Blue Angels come flying low over the river. Joe looks at Wayne and points at the Blue Angels. Wayne puts his hand on his stomach.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding across a bridge over water. A sign ahead reads "Welcome to Indiana".

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding down the highway. The land is getting much flatter and more open.

EXT. LOCAL ROAD - DAY

It's early evening. Wayne and Joe have left the highway and are riding down a local road. They approach a motel and Joe puts on his blinker. Wayne and Joe pull in.

EXT. MOTEL - NIGHT

Joe is sitting in a chair outside their room. Wayne comes walking up in a bathing suit with a towel wrapped around his neck. Wayne is wet from swimming. As Wayne dries off you can see the scares on his leg, abdomen, and arm.

WAYNE

You should have joined me, the water was great. I ate so much at dinner I had to do something.

Wayne flexes his injured leg.

WAYNE

My leg was stiff from the long ride Today but after the swim it feels good.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

It will be good as new in a few weeks.

Wayne gets a concerned look on his face. Wayne rubs his leg.

WAYNE

I know.

Wayne looks at Joe.

WAYNE

How are you doing?

Joe closes his eyes and puts his hands up as if he is meditating for a moment then opens his eyes and puts his hands down. Wayne relaxes in his chair.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

We had a rocky start.

WAYNE

Ya, but the past two days have been great.

Wayne and Joe are both smiling.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

The room is dark and quiet. Joe is asleep in one bed. Wayne is in the other. Wayne is tossing and turning having a nightmare. Wayne wakes up. Wayne looks around the room for a moment then gets out of bed. Wayne pulls his pants on and makes his way to the door.

EXT. MOTEL - NIGHT

Wayne walks out of the door and stands there looking around for a moment. He's sweaty and breathing heavy. It's quiet outside except for a few crickets chirping.

Wayne sits down in a chair by the door.

The room door opens, Joe look out and sees Wayne. Joe gives Wayne the Ok sign and Wayne does not respond. Joe gestures one minute and goes back in the room. A moment later Joe comes out wearing pants and carrying his phone. Joe sits down in a chair next to Wayne.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

Bad dreams?

WAYNE

Ya.

Wayne looks around.

WAYNE

It sure is quiet out here. When I woke up, I could not get my bearing. I thought I was back in Afghanistan. It just feels so strange. A few weeks ago, we were in a fire fight in Afghanistan, and now we're sitting outside a motel in rural American. (pause) I'm sorry I woke you up.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

I wasn't sleeping very well.

WAYNE

Bad dreams?

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

No. Sometimes I lay the wrong way and get a shooting pain in my neck.

Joe puts a finger to his throat and makes a gesture as if he is shooting himself in the neck. Wayne kind of smiles.

WAYNE

Good one, shooting pain. I get it.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

What was your dream about?

WAYNE

I was in action and I was being shot over and over again, but I could not drop down out of the line of fire.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
The dreams will fade.

WAYNE
Do you have bad dreams about being in
action?

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
At first I did. I would have this dream
that I was leading the platoon. I could
see the enemy coming but my gun will
not fire.

WAYNE
How long you been in the service?

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
Twenty-seven years. I put in for
retirement at the end of the year a few
weeks before the mission.

WAYNE
How old are you?

Joe gives Wayne a sarcastic look and types.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
I'll put it this way. I have five years
on the second oldest active duty Seal.
I'm the oldest.

Wayne looks around. Wayne's breathing has slowed.

WAYNE
These little motels are so quiet at
night. You got something against
Holiday Inns?

Wayne smiles at Joe and Joe gestures like he's meditating.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding down the highway. The countryside is very flat now and very open. They ride around a curve and far off in the distance you can see the St. Louis Arch.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding across the bridge next to the St. Louis Arch. You can see the Arch in the background looming over the bridge. Wayne and Joe start turning to take the exit to the Arch.

EXT. ST. LOUIS ARCH - DAY

Joe is standing on the river side of the Arch in the grass. Wayne walks up and Joe spreads his arms out to gesture "look at this". Wayne looks up.

WAYNE

Boy that thing is tall.

Joe points to the top of the Arch and looks at Wayne.

WAYNE

No, way.

Joe points again to the top of the Arch.

WAYNE

Are you crazy? Do you see how tall that thing is?

Joe mouths the word "Pussy"

WAYNE

I'm not a Pussy.

Joe grabs Wayne's arm and pulls Wayne towards the Arch entrance.

INT. ST. LOUIS ARCH - DAY

Wayne and Joe are waiting in line to go up on the elevator. Joe is watching three attractive women in front of him.

The operator motions for the three women to get in which leaves Joe standing at the front of the line. The operator motions for Joe to get in.

OPERATOR

We have room for one more.

Joe moves forward towards the door.

WAYNE

Maybe you should wait for me.

Joe looks back at Wayne with crazy eyes and climbs into the elevator.

Wayne looks behind him and sees three much older women standing behind him. Wayne holds his hands up.

WAYNE

Great.

From behind the elevator door you can hear Joe's phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE) (O.C)

Hello Ladies

Then you can hear the three women begin to laugh.

INT. ST. LOUIS ARCH TOP - DAY

Wayne makes his way out of the elevator after the older women gets off.

Wayne looks up and sees Joe leaning over looking out one of the windows. Past Joe you can see the three women Joe rode up with looking at Joe.

Wayne begins the walk up. Joe sees Wayne and motions for him to come over.

Wayne walks up to where Joe is and looks out the window. Joe throw his hand up to block his view out the window.

WAYNE

My God are we high.

Wayne moves his hand and leans over to look out the window.

WAYNE

Where are the bikes?

Wayne leans closer then braces himself against the wall.

WAYNE (NERVOUSLY)

Did this thing just move?

An elevator operator in uniform offers and answer.

OPERATOR

It's Ok. The Arch does from time to time sway a little in the wind but there is nothing to worry about.

Wayne relaxes a little and goes back to looking out the window.

EXT. ST. LOUIS ARCH - DAY

Wayne and Joe come walking out of the Arch. Joe has a smile on his face. Wayne, not so much. Joe turns around and looks at Wayne. Joe closes his eyes and gestures that he is meditating.

WAYNE

Sorry, that wasn't so relaxing for me.

Joe puts his arms down, pulls out his phone and types.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

Sorry you didn't enjoy that.

WAYNE

You weren't stuck in an elevator full of old women and the smell of Ben Gay.

Joe throws his head back and puts his hand on his chest as if to laugh.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

Let me make it up to you. Lunch is on
me. Anywhere you want to go.

Wayne looks at Joe.

WAYNE

I don't know. What's St. Louis known
for?

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

Hot Dogs.

WAYNE

Sounds good to me.

EXT. ST. LOUIS STREET - DAY

Joe pulls up in front of a red brick building and stops.
Wayne follows Joe. Joe gets off his bike followed by Wayne.
Joe looks at the front window and the sign reads "Steve's
Hot Dogs on the Hill".

WAYNE

Have you been here before?

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

No, but Yelp said it is the best.

WAYNE

Ok then.

Joe and Wayne walk in.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Wayne and Joe are sitting in a booth. The waiter walks over, and places two hotdogs heaped with topping on the table.

WAITER

There you go.

Wayne and Joe both pick up their hotdogs and take a bite. Wayne swallows and takes a drink of soda. Joe struggles to swallow.

WAYNE

Are you Ok?

Joe shakes his head Yes. Joe holds his hotdog with one hand and types with the other.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

It's getting better. Plus, I took a pain pill before leaving the Arch.

WAYNE

Tonight, we'll eat at a regular restaurant so you can get some soft food.

Joe nods as they both sit there eating hotdogs.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding down the highway. It's getting dark. To the north you can see a lightning storm moving east.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding down the highway. They Pass a sign that reads entering Kansas City.

EXT. KANSAS CITY STREET - NIGHT

Joe is riding in front of Wayne. In the distance you can see a Holiday Inn sign.

Joe approaches the Hotel and puts on his blinker then pulls in followed by Wayne.

EXT. HOLIDAY INN - NIGHT

Joe and Wayne pull under the entrance to the lobby and park their bikes next to two other bikes sitting there.

Joe and Wayne get off their bikes just as the rain begins to fall.

WAYNE
Perfect timing.

Joe smiles and walks towards the entrance followed by Wayne.

INT. HOLIDAY INN - NIGHT

Wayne finishes registering at the desk and turns around with two room keys.

Wayne walks over to Joe and hands Joe a key.

WAYNE
All they had was two rooms with one bed
and they're on different floors.

Joe takes the key from Wayne.

WAYNE
What do you say we get our gear, get
settled in the rooms, and meet down
here in thirty minutes?

Joe shake his head Yes.

Wayne and Joe walk towards the entrance.

EXT. HOLIDAY INN - NIGHT

There is a cab waiting at the entrance. Wayne and Joe walk out of the hotel and get into the cab.

INT. CAB - NIGHT

Wayne and Joe get in the cab. Joe holds up his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

Take us to the best steak house in the
city.

The cab driver looks back at Wayne and Joe with an odd look
on his face.

CAB DRIVE

Do you want some fancified upper class
steak house or a great place to eat?

Wayne looks at Joe.

WAYNE

The great place to eat.

Joe nods his head Yes.

INT. CAB - NIGHT

Wayne and Joe are riding in the back of the cab looking out
the windows at Kansas City.

INT. CASINO - NIGHT

Wayne and Joe walk in and stop. Wayne looks at Joe and Joe
shrugs his shoulders.

WAYNE

The Cab Drive said Great Plains Cattle
Co had great food and it's in here.
Let's find it.

Wayne and Joe are walking through the casino looking for
the restaurant.

Wayne stops next to a roulette table and Joe stops next to
Wayne. Wayne reaches in his pocket and pulls out his money.

Wayne looks at Joe.

WAYNE

Just a minute.

Wayne pulls a one-hundred-dollar bill from his folded money and slaps it down on the black rectangle.

WAYNE

One hundred on black.

The Man behind the table lets the ball go. Wayne and Joe watch as the ball and wheel go in opposite directions.

The ball drops down and begins to bounce. When the wheel stops the ball is sitting in a black cup, number thirteen.

Wayne hold his fist up.

WAYNE

Yes. Maybe thirteen is not an unlucky number after all.

Wayne looks at Joe with a big grin on his face.

INT. GREAT PLAINS CATTLE CO - NIGHT

Wayne and Joe walk in. Wayne looks around.

WAYNE

Not bad.

Wayne holds up two one-hundred-dollar chips.

WAYNE

Dinner is on me.

EXT. HOLIDAY INN - NIGHT

A cab pulls up at the entrance and Wayne and Joe get out. Wayne pays the cab driver and closes the door.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

That was a great meal.

WAYNE

The fact that I paid with money I won
made it even better.

Wayne and Joe walk into the hotel.

INT. HOLIDAY INN - NIGHT

Wayne and Joe approach the elevators. Joe presses the
elevator button.

WAYNE

What time do you want to meet in the
morning?

Joe looks at his phone then holds up six fingers.

WAYNE

Is there something wrong with your
phone?

Joe holds his phone up and the screen is black.

WAYNE

Battery dead?

Joe shakes his head Yes.

WAYNE

Ok then. Down by the bikes at six am.

Wayne shakes his head Yes.

The elevator doors open.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The sun is low in the sky to the east as Wayne and Joe ride
down the highway. Joe holds up his phone and takes a
picture of Wayne riding down the highway.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding down the highway. A sign on the
side of the highway reads "Welcome to Arkansas".

Joe watches the sign as they go by.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding down the highway. The countryside is slowly turning into forest.

Joe waves at Wayne and points to his gas tank. Wayne nods. Joe points to the exit coming up.

Both begin turning off the highway.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

Joe is looking at his phone as Wayne finishes filling his gas tank.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

We missed a turn. We should be heading to Tulsa but we're heading towards Fort Smith.

WAYNE

Have you ever been to Fort Smith?

Joe shakes his head No.

WAYNE

I have. We can make a stop while we're there.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

Ok. You're navigating.

Wayne finishes filling his gas tank and puts the nozzle back in the pump.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding across a bridge over a river. The sign at the end of the bridge reads "Welcome to Fort Smith"

EXT. FORT SMITH - DAY

Wayne and Joe pull into Fort Smith parking lot and park.

EXT. FORT SMITH - DAY

Wayne and Joe are walking around the outside of Fort Smith.

WAYNE

It started out as an Army Outpost and later became a federal court.

EXT. FORT SMITH - DAY

Wayne and Joe walk towards the back of the fort and can see the gallows.

WAYNE

All through the eighteen hundred's people and outlaws from all over passed through this area. The Judge assigned here, Judge Parker was nicknamed the Hanging Judge.

Wayne and Joe stop and look at the gallows.

WAYNE

Some came through here as prisoners and ended up being hanged for their crimes.

EXT. FORT SMITH ENTRANCE - DAY

Wayne and Joe are walking up the steps to Fort Smith.

EXT. FORT SMITH PARADE GROUNDS - DAY

Wayne and Joe are standing looking at the parade grounds. Joe is typing on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

You seem to know a lot about this place.

WAYNE

We used to live close by in Oklahoma.
Just over the border in a small town
named Roland.

Wayne gets a solemn sad look on his face. Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

You said you were from San Diego.

WAYNE

I grew up in Oklahoma until I was ten.
That's when my father left us. Not too
long after that my Mother moved us to
San Diego. This was the last place my
Father brought me before he left.

EXT. LOCAL ROAD - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding down the road. They pass a sign that reads "Poteau". Wayne gestures with his hand to his mouth as if he's hungry. Joe nods.

EXT. LOCAL ROAD - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding down the road. Wayne points to an ice cream stand with outside seating. They both pull in.

EXT. ICE CREAM STAND - DAY

Wayne and Joe are sitting at a picnic bench eating. Joe is swiping on his phone.

WAYNE

What are you looking for?

Joe holds up his phone to show Wayne a map. Joe starts typing on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

We need to make our way west.

WAYNE

Where are we heading?

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
Wichita Falls Texas.

WAYNE
I thought Wichita Falls was in Kansas?

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
Not where I grew up.

Joe and Wayne smile. Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
We won't get there until well after
dark.

WAYNE
Do you mind if we make a slight detour?

Joe looks at Wayne.

WAYNE
Just south of here is a skyline drive
that would be great to ride on bikes.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
You're navigating.

WAYNE
Ok.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding down the road and take an exit
marked Talimena State Park.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding down Talimena Drive. As they ride
up a hill two Streetluges race by in the opposite
direction. Joe watches as they pass.

EXT. PARK OVERLOOK - DAY

Joe is standing close to a stone wall overlooking a valley. Joe has a big smile on his face. As Wayne walks up, Joe stretches out his arms as if to say look at all of this. Wayne smiles.

WAYNE

It's beautiful here isn't it?

Joe shakes his head Yes. Wayne sits down on the wall and Joe sits down also.

WAYNE

My Father brought me here when I was kid.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

Are you angry with your Father for leaving?

Wayne looks down at the ground.

WAYNE

No, not really. I just miss him. I have all these memories of us doing things together.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

Did you see those two things go flying by us on the road?

WAYNE

I did. They're Streetluges. One weekend we spent a day just down the road watching races.

Joe shrugs and holds his hands up.

WAYNE

There were all these extreme sports athletes that came from all over to race down hill. The skateboarders look

like they were floating as they went by. There was a guy close to us who had a radar gun, and he clocked the streetluges at over seventy miles an hour.

Joe shrugs and holds his hands up.

WAYNE

What? Streetluge?

Joe shakes his head Yes.

WAYNE

You never heard of a steetluge before?

Joe shakes his head No.

WAYNE

It's a sleek metal sled with wheels. These guys ride them down hill laying flat on their backs about an inch off the ground. When they come by, they look and sound like they're doing a hundred miles an hour. Oh, and the bikes. There was this one that would come flying by. It had a black fairing and "Dr. No" painted on the side.

Joe looks at Wayne. Wayne's face is lit up.

WAYNE

When we got home, I road my bike to the top of this small hill near my house and came flying down like I was one of the racers.

Joe smiles at Wayne.

WAYNE

That's the kind of memories I have of my Father. The things we did together.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

Do you ever see him?

WAYNE

Not since we left Oklahoma. I think that's why my mother moved us right after he left. To make a clean break, a new start.

Wayne turns and looks out over the valley.

WAYNE

It sure is beautiful here.

Joe closes his eyes and gestures like he is meditating.

EXT. SKYLINE DRIVE - DAY

From a distance you see Wayne and Joe riding along the skyline drive.

EXT. LOCAL ROAD - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding down the road. Ahead you see a motel sign. Joe puts on his turn signal and Wayne follows Joe.

EXT. MOTEL - DAY

Wayne and Joe pull up to the office and park. Wayne and Joe get off their bikes.

WAYNE

Do you have a map to every little motel in the country?

Joe smiles and walks towards the motel office.

EXT. MOTEL - DAY

Wayne and Joe are sitting outside their Motel room. It's getting dark.

WAYNE

How much further we got?

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

Only a couple of hours. My folks have a place outside of Wichita Falls.

WAYNE

You anxious to see your folks?

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

No, not really. I mean I'm excited, but I left the anxiety at the VA Hospital.

Wayne shakes his head Yes slowly.

WAYNE

I think I know what you mean.

EXT. MOTEL - DAY

Wayne and Joe pull out of the motel entrance and head down the road.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding down the highway. The exit sign ahead reads "Byers, Dean, Wichita Falls. Joe puts on his blinker.

EXT. LOCAL ROAD - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding down the road. Joe pulls on to a dirt road and Wayne follows.

EXT. DIRT ROAD - DAY

Wayne follows Joe up the dirt road. They approach a large two-story log house with a green steel roof. The house has a long wrap around porch across the front, down the side and across the back. Joe leads Wayne around the side to the back of the house.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Joe pulls up and parks in the rear of the house followed by Wayne. Joe gets off his bike and holds his arms out as if to say we made it. Wayne gets off his bike and looks around.

EXT. HOUSE PORCH - DAY

Joe walks up the steps onto the porch followed by Wayne. Joe's Father DON comes out of the house. Don walks towards Joe as Joe walks towards him. Don wraps his arms around Joe and picks Joe up. Don sets Joe down and holds Joe at arms length. Both Don and Joe have tears running down their faces.

Wayne, standing several feet away is starting to tear up.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
Welcome home Son. Let me look at you.

Don reaches up and lifts Joe's chin to look at Joe's neck.

DON
Is that it? I have bigger scars from shaving. Well, someone once said, "scars are tattoos with better stories".

Don steps back.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
It's good to have you home.

Joe points to Wayne and Wayne steps forward. Before Wayne can reach his hand out to shake Don's hand, Don wraps his arms around Wayne and hugs Wayne then Don steps back.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
It's good to have you here Son. It's Wayne, right? You can call me Don.

Wayne wipes his eyes and Don wipes his eyes also.

WAYNE

It's a pleasure to meet you.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Same here. I was starting to fix some lunch. You two come in and I'll fix you something.

INT. HOUSE KITCHEN AREA - INT

The house has a very open layout with the kitchen area close to the living room. The interior is rustic with log walls, high ceilings and Indian blankets on the walls. Very western.

Don walks into the kitchen. Joe sits down on a high stool at the raised counter area attached to the kitchen counter. Don looks at Wayne.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Make yourself at home. Have a seat. I'm making sandwiches.

Wayne sits next to Joe. Don points at Joe.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Ham and cheese with mustard?

Joe shakes his head Yes. Don begins making sandwiches.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Wayne, I have ham, turkey and bologna. What can I make you?

WAYNE

Turkey would be great.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

What do you want on top? Lettuce? Tomato?

WAYNE

Please, can I get some mayo on that?

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

You sure can. Joe, get your friend something to drink.

Joe gets up, walks to the refrigerator, and opens the door. Joe looks at Wayne.

WAYNE

Water is fine.

Joe pulls out two bottles of water and walks back over to the counter. Joe sits down and hands a bottle of water to Wayne.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Sorry, there's no beer. I'll have to put it in the refrigerator so in can get cold. So, Wayne, you're a doctor?

Wayne looks at Joe and then back at Don.

WAYNE (TEXAS DRAWL)

No, I'm an Army medic.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Sorry, Joe emailed that he was bringing home a Doc.

WAYNE

Well, they called my Doc. Joe and I came back from Afghanistan together and were in the same VA Hospital.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Were you wounded also?

WAYNE

I was shot in the leg, abdomen, and arm.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

All three at the same time?

WAYNE

Pretty much.

Don reaches over the counter with two plates and places them in front of Joe and Wayne.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
Didn't they teach you how to duck.

Joe begins to laugh in his throat and Don smiles a big grin at Wayne.

WAYNE
That's what everyone keeps asking me.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
You boys take those plates out onto the porch and find yourselves a place to sit down.

Joe and Wayne pick up their plates and water and walk away from the counter.

EXT. HOUSE PORCH - DAY

Joe and Wayne are eating on the porch.

WAYNE
I like your dad.

Joe types on his phone.

CELL PHONE (FEMALE VOICE)
Me to.

Don walks up carrying his plate and sits down. Don looks at Joe's phone.

DAN (TEXAS DRAWL)
What the hell was that I heard?

WAYNE
It's a cell phone app that reads whatever you type.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
That sounds like a girl.

Joe rolls his eyes.

WAYNE

It only gets worse if he changes the pitch.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Couldn't you get one with a man's voice?

Joe shrugs and holds his hands up.

WAYNE

This is nice Mr. Brooks.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Call me Don. Only the bank tellers call me Mr. Brooks.

Don settles back in his chair and looks around.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

It is nice out here isn't it. I bet we've spent more time out here on this porch than we have in the house.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

Where's Sam and Mom?

Don wrinkles his face up.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Boy, you're going to have to do something about that voice.

Wayne looks at Joe and smiles.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Your Sis is flying in some time this evening and your mother will not be back until next week.

Joe gets a surprised look on his face and types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

Do they know I'm back?

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Your Sis does but you Mother doesn't. I called your mother over in Europe once you emailed me from the VA Hospital. I told her you were back in the states and that you had been wounded again. Nothing serious.

Joe looks at Don with a half angry face and holds his hand up as if to ask Why.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Your Mother has wanted to go to Europe with her two Sisters forever. No reason to worry her and have her jump on a plane and head home.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

I guess you're right.

Don looks at Wayne.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Has he been using that thing the whole time?

Wayne looks at Joe and laughs.

Don kind of shivers.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

My Son sounds like a girl. Look if you two are done, take the jeep, and go check the water level in the pond for me.

Joe stands up and picks up his plate. Wayne does the same.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Leave those plates, I'll take care of them. Go do what I asked you to do.

Joe sets his plate down and Wayne sets his plate on top of Joes. Joe motions with his head for Wayne to walk towards the end of the porch.

EXT. GARAGE - DAY

Joe leads Wayne around the side of the garage and up to an old Jeep with no windshield, doors or top. Joe motions for Wayne to get in.

EXT. DIRT ROAD - DAY

Wayne and Joe are riding in the jeep down a dirt road. The countryside is wide open except for sage brush. Off in the distance you can see several cows.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

Joe pulls up to the side of an expansive lake and gets out of the jeep. Wayne gets out also.

Joe walks up to the lake. There is a stick in the edge of the lake. The stick has lines marking inches of water. Joe takes out his phone and takes a picture of the water level. Wayne walks up next to Joe and points to the lake.

WAYNE

That's not a pond, it's a lake.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

Everything's bigger in Texas.

Joe points over to a small mountain range on the other side of the lake. Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

My family owns to the peak of that mountain range. Just over five thousand acres.

WAYNE
That's a lot of land.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
Not in Texas.

Joe looks around and types.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
I always liked this lake. It's always
peaceful and calm here.

Wayne closes his eyes and raises his hands as if he is
meditating.

Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
You got it brother.

Joe begins to walk back to the jeep. Wayne stands there for
a moment and then follows Joe.

EXT. HOUSE REAR - DAY

The sun is beginning to set. Wayne, Joe and Don come
driving up in the jeep and park.

Wayne, Joe and Don get out and walk towards the house.

WAYNE
Thanks for dinner.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
You're welcome.

EXT. HOUSE PORCH - NIGHT

All three come walking down the porch.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
You boys have a seat and I'll get us
some beers.

Don walks in the house. Joe motions that he's going inside. Wayne sits down.

Don comes walking out carrying a small bucket with ice and beers. Don walks up and places the bucket in the middle of a small table.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
Help yourself.

Wayne pulls a bottle from the bucket and opens it. Don does the same and sits down.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
Where did Joe go?

WAYNE
He went in the house.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
Ya, I heard the bathroom door close.
He's not used to real Mexican food. How did you like it?

WAYNE
It was good.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
How's my boy doing?

WAYNE
He seems to be doing fine. The Doctor said he was going to need some more surgery on his vocal cords.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
I mean, how's he doing?

WAYNE
I'm not sure I know what you mean?

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
How was he on the trip out? Was he depressed, happy, did he pick a fight in every bar?

WAYNE

Well, to tell you the truth we did have a rocky start, but he seemed fine the rest of the time.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Good, good. It's not his first time being wounded.

Don looks towards the door then back at Wayne.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

First time he came home wounded, they gave him some pain pills that had him acting stupid for a week or two. Every night he got into a fight at the bar. One day his mother drove him out to the pond and made him throw those pills into the pond. She gave him a gallon of water and told him to walk home. It was the middle of the summer and over one hundred degrees. She told him, "You drink that water on the way home and sweat that poison out of your system". By the time Joe got back he was dragging his tail between his legs and the water jug was empty. His Mother filled the jug and gave him a bottle of aspirin.

WAYNE

That must have been tuff.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

The next day he told me "Pop, I thought I was going to die out there". Some lessons are tuff. I told him the next time he comes back from deployment, to not come home until he was ready to be home. Ever since then, wounded or not he takes a week or two to unwind and make his way home.

Don takes a drink of his beer.

DON
All I know is when he steps on this
porch, my son is home.

Don and Wayne stare out into the night.

EXT. HOUSE PORCH - NIGHT

Joe comes walking out of the house.

Joe walks over, pulls a beer from the bucket, and sits down
next to Wayne. Joe opens the beer and takes a drink.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
Where you from Wayne?

WAYNE
I grew up over on the east side of
Oklahoma, but my mother moved us to San
Diego when I was ten.

Wayne takes a drink of beer.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
So, are you Mexican?

Wayne is surprised and almost spits the beer out.

WAYNE
Ah, yes Sir.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
Small world, we're Mexican too.

Wayne looks at Joe with a surprised look on his face. Joe
gives Wayne a convincing nod yes. Wayne looks at Don with a
surprised look and Don looks at Wayne.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
No, really.

Don takes a drink of beer.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

I know we don't look it, but Joe's Great Grand Dad seven or eight generations back was here when this was Mexico, before Stephen Austin brought settlers in.

Wayne looks back at Joe and Joe shakes his head Yes.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

At the time, that Grand Dad was sitting on thousands of acres. After the war of independence, more settlers came in, property lines were drawn, and that Grand Dad lost almost half the property. Not speaking English, there wasn't much he could do about it. That Grand Dad married a Cherokee Indian. Since then, there has been Irish, French and Scots blood mixed in there. Mostly coming from women.

WAYNE

But your last name is Brooks?

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Ya, that was the Scotsman. Just before the first world war a Scotsman married one of Joe's Great Grand Mothers. He went off to war and left her here by herself. Unable to maintain the property and farm it, she started selling pieces. She built this house with some of the money.

WAYNE

It's a nice house.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Thank you, but I didn't build it. When the Scots returned from the war, he only had one arm and was unable to maintain the land, so it was whittled down a little more. Since then, it's been mostly farmers and ranchers on the

land. Except for me, I'm a lawyer. I
lease most the land to cattle farmers.

EXT. HOUSE BACK - NIGHT

A pickup truck comes pulling in and parks next to Joe and Wayne's bikes. Joe's sister SAM gets out and walks towards the house.

EXT. HOUSE PORCH - NIGHT

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
Here comes trouble.

All three watch as Sam walks up the stairs and across the porch. Joe stands and Sam comes running down the porch into Joe's arms. Joe lifts Sam up and spins Sam around then sets Sam down.

SAM (TEXAS DRAWL)
How are you doing Brother?

Joe points to his neck.

SAM (TEXAS DRAWL) (SORROWFUL)
I know, Pop emailed me the details.

Joe sits back down. Sam stands back and looks at all three men.

SAM (TEXAS DRAWL)
So, what do we have here the three
Amigos?

Wayne seems to freeze. Sam walks towards Wayne and holds out her hand.

SAM (TEXAS DRAWL)
How are you doing? My name is Samantha,
but you can call me Sam.

Wayne takes Sam's hand and shakes it.

WAYNE
Wayne. It's a pleasure to meet you.

SAM (TEXAS DRAWL)
It's a pleasure to meet you, Wayne.
Well, I'm going in, take a shower and
get some sleep. Some people work for a
living.

Sam walks towards the door.

SAM (TEXAS DRAWL)
Good night, Pop.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
Good night, dear.

Wayne stands up.

WAYNE
Thanks again for dinner. I have to get
going.

DON (TEXAS DRAW)
Where do you think you're going?

WAYNE
I have to get into town and find a
place to stay.

DON (TEXAS DRAW)
Like hell you are. No friend of Joe's
is staying in a motel.

Don points towards the garage.

DON
Joe, you take him out and show him the
guest room. In the morning, when you
get moving around, you come in for
breakfast.

Joe gets up and gestures for Wayne to follow him.

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

Joe and Wayne come pushing the bikes into the garage and park the bikes next to a black low rider Harley. Joe points to a stairway at the back of the garage.

Joe and Wayne walk to the stairway. Joe flips a switch and lights at the top of the stairway come on. Joe points up the stairway and Wayne begins walking up.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)

Good night.

Wayne looks back and smiles.

INT. GUEST ROOM - NIGHT.

Wayne opens the door, turns on the lights and walks in. The area above the garage is a full apartment with kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and living room. The apartment is decorated like the house in a western motif.

INT. HOUSE KITCHEN AREA - DAY

Don is cooking in the kitchen when Wayne walks in and sits down at the counter.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Morning. How'd you sleep?

WAYNE

Morning. I slept great. It's so peaceful and quite out there.

Don sets a glass in front of Wayne, holds up a pitcher of orange juice and looks at Wayne.

WAYNE

Yes, please.

Wayne picks up the glass and holds it out. Don fills the glass and sets the pitcher down. Wayne takes a drink and sets the glass down on the counter.

Don holds up a frying pan full of eggs.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
I hope you like eggs and bacon.

WAYNE
Yes, thank you.

INT. HOUSE KITCHEN AREA - DAY

Joe walks in and sits down next to Wayne who is eating. Don slides a plate in front of Joe. Joe mouths thank you.

INT. HOUSE KITCHEN AREA - DAY

Sam walks in still half asleep wearing a robe with her hair a mess.

SAM (TEXAS DRAWL)
Morning.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
Morning.

WAYNE
Morning.

Joe raises his fork to say morning.

Sam walks to the counter and leans on the counter. Don hands Sam a cup of coffee.

SAM (TEXAS DRAWL)
Thank you.

Sam takes a drink of the coffee.

SAM (TEXAS DRAWL)
That'll get me moving.

Sam looks over at Joe.

SAM (TEXAS DRAWL)
Let me hear it.

Joe motions with his hands What?

SAM (TEXAS DRAWL)
The voice.

WAYNE
He can't talk.

SAM (TEXAS DRAWL)
No, the phone voice.

Joe looks at Don.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
What, I told her you were using an app
that speaks for you until you are able
to speak.

Joe picks up his phone and types.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
Morning.

Sam busts out laughing out of control. Wayne and Don
snicker.

Joe shakes his head Yes and makes a gesture with both hands
to continue.

Sam settles down enough to stand up right. Joe types on his
phone.

PHONE VOICE (FEMALE)
Very funny.

Sam breaks out laughing again and this time Wayne and Don
cannot contain themselves, so they begin to laugh also.

Sam gains her composure.

SAM (TEXAS DRAWL)
What are you guys doing Today?

WAYNE
Your brother is going to show me around
Wichita Falls. He says I need a pair of

boots, so he's taking me to a boot store.

SAM (TEXAS DRAWL)

Can't come to Texas with out buying boots.

Wayne looks down and below Sam's robe he sees she is wearing cowboy boots.

EXT. WICHITA FALL STREET - DAY

Wayne and Joe ride up on the bikes and park on the side of the street.

Wayne and Joe get off the bikes. Joe points down the sidewalk and both begin to walk in that direction.

WAYNE

I forgot to thank your father for breakfast. You know his voice threw me for a few minutes. I forgot you have a Texas drawl. To me you just sound like a girl.

Wayne smiles. Joe smiles and makes a rotating gesture with his one hand for Wayne to continue.

EXT. STORE - DAY

Wayne and Joe walk up to a boot store. Joe opens the door and holds it for Wayne.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Wayne, Joe and Don are sitting in the living room relaxing. Sam walks in and sits down across from Joe. Sam looks at Joe. Sam holds up a phone.

SAM

Is this yours?

Joe puts his hand on his pocket and then looks over into the kitchen.

SAM
Picture time.

Joe puts his hand over his face.

Sam grabs the TV remote and turns on a wide screen TV. Sam starts swiping on the phone and a picture appears on the TV. Sam has accessed the phone and is putting the pictures from the phone on the wide screen TV. One by one Sam flips through the pictures stored on Joe's phone starting at the beginning.

A picture of Joe in uniform smiling and petting a service dog. Joe in a group picture with his platoon having a beer in civilian clothes. A picture of a sunset in Afghanistan. A picture of platoon members in a helicopter flying. A picture of Wayne wiping down his bike in the VA hospital parking lot. A picture of Wayne, who seems angry, talking to the police officer. A picture of Wayne sitting on the wall of a rest stop. A picture of Wayne playing horseshoes.

Wayne leans forward in his chair and looks at Joe and Joe looks at Wayne. Wayne looks back at the TV.

A picture of Wayne in the Blue Angels jet as it taxis. A picture of Wayne looking up at the St. Louis Arch with a look of fear on his face. A picture of Wayne riding down the highway with a big smile on his face. A picture of Wayne at the overlook on Talimina drive.

Wayne leans back in his chair.

WAYNE
I remember the one of me on the bike riding down the highway but when did you take the others?

Joe shrugs his shoulders. Don looks at Wayne.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
I'm not going to ask why you were talking to a Cop, but it looks like you boys had a nice time.

Wayne shakes his head yes.

WAYNE

We did.

Sam tosses Joe the phone. Joe types on the phone but this time the voice comes out as male.

PHONE VOICE (MALE)

I think Wayne needed the trip more than I did.

Joe and Wayne both look at the phone.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

That's much better.

Joe looks at Sam and mouths the words "Thank You".

Sam mouths back "Your Welcome".

Sam looks over and sees Wayne wearing cowboy boots.

SAM (TEXAS DRAWL)

Nice boots.

WAYNE

Thank you.

EXT. HOUSE PORCH - NIGHT

All four are sitting on the porch drinking beer.

WAYNE

I want to thank you for letting me stay.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Any time. You stay as long as you like or need.

WAYNE

Well, tomorrow I need to take the bike to the local dealership and make arrangements to fly home.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Is there something wrong with your bike?

WAYNE

No, I rented it so I could ride here with Joe.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

That was awfully nice of you.

SAM (TEXAS DRAWL)

If you need a flight home, I can help you with that. I work for American Airlines.

WAYNE

You do?

Joe covers his face.

WAYNE

Are you a pilot?

Joe uncovers his face and has a look of surprise. Sam also has a look of surprise.

SAM (TEXAS DRAWL)

Yes, I am.

WAYNE

Thanks, I'll talk to you in the morning about it.

Sam gets up.

SAM (TEXAS DRAWL)

I'm going to bed.

Sam begins to walk to the door.

Joe holds his beer up as if to say good night.

WAYNE

Good night.

Sam stops in front of Don and points at Don.

SAM (TEXAS DRAWL)
Don't think I don't know what's going
on. Night Pop.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
Night dear.

Sam walks into the house.

Joe looks at Wayne and holds up his hand as if to ask what
just happened?

WAYNE
Your Father told me if your sister's
job comes up to make sure I don't ask
her if she is a flight attendant.

Joe gets a big grin on his face.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
I've seen her bring a six-foot-tall man
to his knees for making that mistake.
That girl can bust a man's balls no
matter how big they are.

Don takes a drink of his beer.

All three sit there staring out into the night.

INT. HOUSE KITCHEN AREA - DAY

Don, Joe and Wayne are sitting in the kitchen drinking
coffee. Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (MALE)
You follow me on the bike, and we'll
drop it off at the dealership.

WAYNE
Where's Sam? She was going to help me
with getting a ticket back to San
Diego.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Sam got a call in the middle of the night. She's filling in for a pilot who called in sick. She'll be back this evening.

WAYNE

I wanted to return the bike and catch a flight out of here this afternoon.

Joe gets up. Don looks at Joe and Joe looks at Don as if something is going on.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

You two take the bike to the dealership and come back. We'll work out the details and get you out of here this afternoon.

Joe motions for Wayne to follow him.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Joe is driving the jeep down the road away from the house followed by Wayne on his bike.

EXT. HOUSE PORCH - DAY

Joe and Wayne come walking up on the porch as Don comes walking out of the house.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

I talked to Sam, and you're all set.

Wayne gets a surprised look on his face.

WAYNE

I am?

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Yes, go get your things out of the guest house.

Wayne stops with a strange look on his face.

WAYNE

Ok.

Wayne turns around and walks away.

Joe looks at Don and Don looks at Joe.

INT. GARAGE - DAY

Wayne comes walking out of the garage. Joe's bike is sitting outside of the garage. Wayne walks past it.

EXT. HOUSE PORCH - DAY

Don is sitting on the porch. On the table next to Don are two envelopes. Wayne walks up carrying his backpack.

WAYNE

Where's Joe

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Have a seat. Joe went to check the pond, he'll be back.

Wayne gets a surprised look on his face. Wayne sets the backpack on the floor and sits down.

Don picks up the two envelopes and hands them to Wayne.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Joe wanted me to give you these and talk to you.

WAYNE

Talk to me about what?

Don points to the envelopes

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Open them.

Wayne opens the first envelope and pulls out a set of keys and a document. Joe looks at the document and turns it over.

WAYNE

This is the title to Joe's bike, and
it's sign over to me on the back.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Open the other one.

Wayne opens the second envelope and pulls out a handwritten
letter. Wayne reads the letter.

JOE (V.O TEXAS DRAWL)

First, I want to thank you for saving
my life in Afghanistan. I know you
think we're even on this, but I think I
owe you a little more.

Wayne's eyes begin to well up and Wayne swallows.

JOE (V.O TEXAS DRAWL)

Second, thank you for joining me on my
ride home. I think you needed it a
little more than me but if it wasn't
for you, I would probably be sitting in
jail back in Virginia.

Wayne smiles a little.

JOE (V.O TEXAS DRAWL)

Thanks to you I'm home. But you need to
finish your ride home. I hope you will
allow me to give you this bike so you
can finish that ride. When you get to
San Diego, do whatever you want with
the bike. Store it for when you come
home again or if you feel burdened by
this gift, donate it to a veteran's
organization to be raffled off. If you
have to go back overseas, I hope you
return home safely. Just remember to
duck next time. Your Brother Joe.

Wayne puts the letter back in the envelope and looks at Don
with tears on his face. Don hands Wayne a handkerchief.
Wayne takes the handkerchief and dries his eyes.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

My Son has never been too good at expressing his feeling. I think that's why he did it this way.

Wayne holds up the envelopes and shakes them.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

I don't know what he wrote, but by the look on your face I get the feeling he's made progress in this area. Are you Ok with it?

Joe puts the keys in his pocket and the envelopes in his backpack.

WAYNE

I am.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Good.

Don stands up and Wayne stands also. Don gives Wayne a big hug and Wayne hugs him back. Don steps back.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

Son, if you're ever passing through or just want to come for a visit, don't hesitate for a moment. Come and stay as long as you want.

WAYNE

I will.

Don cocks his head and listens for a moment.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)

I hear the jeep coming. Why don't you go put your things in the bike.

WAYNE

Thank you.

DON (TEXAS DRAWL)
You're welcome.

Wayne turns, picks up his backpack and walks away.

EXT. GARAGE - DAY

Wayne closes the saddlebags on the bike, places the key in the ignition and runs his hand over the gas tank. Joe pulls up in the jeep. Joe gets out and pulls out his phone. Joe types on his phone.

PHONE VOICE (MALE)
Are you all set?

WAYNE
I am.

Joe walks up and gives Wayne a hug and Wayne hugs Joe back. Joe steps back.

WAYNE
Thank you.

Joe does not use the phone, he uses his own voice.

JOE (VERY QUIET RASPY VOICE)
Thank you.

EXT. YARD - DAY

From a distance you see Wayne riding the bike past the house and you can see Joe walking down the porch towards Don. As Wayne rides down the road, you can see Joe walk up to Don and Don puts his arm around Joe.

Fade out white: