

SCRATCH-OFF

Written by

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EXT "WASHINGTON CROSSING LIQUORS" (1975) DAY

Customers come and go from this store in Trenton, New Jersey. Just outside the entrance is parked a 1972 green four door Ford Gran Torino with a a black landau roof.

INT GRAN TORINO DAY

YOUNG JOHNNY-BOY, a scrawny pre-teen, sits in the back seat, with his feet up on the shoulder of a front bucket seat. He reads a paperback copy of Logan's Run.

YOUNG JOHNNY-BOY (V.O.)
 You never forget where you are when you hear some big, big news. You remember where you were when the space shuttle blew up - take your pick which one. When "The Cosby Show" went off the air. When "Married, With Children" came on. I'll never forget where I was on the day my home state of New Jersey started its instant lottery.

The car doors open and THREE MIDDLE AGED WOMEN slide in. They are CONNIE, Young Johnny-Boy's mother, AUNT RAY and AUNT TONIE, Connie's sisters. Connie smacks his knee.

CONNIE
 Put your feet down!

YOUNG JOHNNY-BOY
 Where's the Rolling Rock. Dad wanted you to pick up a couple of six packs of Rolling Rock.

CONNIE
 It's your fault I forgot. You should've come in and reminded me.

YOUNG JOHNNY-BOY
 That place is a liquor store. I am a minor. I am not permitted by law to purchase alcoholic beverages. I should therefore not be responsible for remembering to purchase said alcoholic beverages.

Aunt Tonie, behind the wheel, tosses a tiny silver and green instant lottery ticket into Young Johnny Boy's open book.

AUNT TONIE

Try your luck, Johnny Boy. If you hit the big jackpot, I'll letcha have it all.

YOUNG JOHNNY-BOY

Yes, Auntie, sure.

He takes out a blue toned Cub Scout pocket knife and scratches off the gray rubber that covers the numbers and prizes.

YOUNG JOHNNY-BOY (CONT'D)

Geez, this is filthy.

CONNIE

Watch your mouth.

YOUNG JOHNNY-BOY

All I said was "Geez".

CONNIE

And I said, "watch your mouth."

Young Johnny-Boy scrapes away the last of the silver. He puzzles over it.

YOUNG JOHNNY-BOY

I can't determine the results. Aunt Ray, you check it out.

He hands the ticket to Aunt Ray.

CONNIE

Ain't you smart enough to figure it out?

YOUNG JOHNNY-BOY

Mom, the odds of winning the large prizes are one hundred seventeen thousand to one, fifty two thousand to one and twelve-thousand to one.

CONNIE

Yeah, so you're smart and can't figure out a simple lottery ticket.

YOUNG JOHNNY-BOY

The odds of even winning two dollars is approximately forty eight hundred to one.

AUNT RAY

You just won two dollars.

YOUNG JOHNNY-BOY
Hooray. Now I can afford college.

AUNT TONIE
Go in and claim your prize.

YOUNG JOHNNY-BOY
I'm underage.

AUNT RAY
Oh, Mister DelPonto will pay out to
you.

INT "WASHINGTON CROSSING LIQUORS" DAY

Young Johnny Boy stands on line behind a few CUSTOMERS at the check-out counter. MISTER DELPONTO, the sixty-something owner, notices Johnny-Boy but continues to ring up purchases.

MISTER DELPONTO
Johnny Boy, your mom and your aunts
are gonna drive me crazy with their
gambling.

Young Johnny-Boy waits his turn. He hands the ticket to DelPonto.

YOUNG JOHNNY-BOY
This is a two dollar winner.

DelPonto hits "No Sale" on the cash register and takes two dollars out of the till.

MISTER DELPONTO
I'd wish they'd actually buy
something in here. A bottle of
Mateus or Ol' Grandad now and then.

YOUNG JOHNNY-BOY
Speaking of which, may I buy a six
pack of Rolling Rock?

MISTER DELPONTO
Why not? You're a good kid. Maybe
this'll start you down the road to
being normal.

INT TOWN CAR SEDAN (2012) DAY

Johnny Boy gets back into the same car, but he's nearly fifty years old and now he's in the driver's seat. He passes cups of coffee to the now elderly Connie, Ray and Tonie.

AUNT TONIE
Johnny Boy, no lottery tickets?

JOHNNY-BOY
I went in for coffee not lotto.

EXT "MARYLAND HOUSE" REST STOP PARKING LOT DAY

Aunt Tonie steps out of the car and throws a brown bag into A trash can.

AUNT RAY
We always used to stop at this place on our trips.

CONNIE
Remember we used to drive down to Maryland to play the slot machines?

INT TOWN CAR SEDAN DAY

Johnny-Boy starts the engine - the car is about ten years old. Aunt Tonie jumps back in and Johnny-Boy backs out of the parking spot even before she slams the door.

AUNT TONIE
Take it easy.

I/E TOWN CAR SEDAN - TRAVELING DAY

He drives through the gas station.

CONNIE
Do we need gas already?

JOHNNY-BOY
No, mom, I was getting homesick.

Johnny Boy steers the car back onto I-95 South.

JOHNNY-BOY (CONT'D)
And I know that lousy son of mine won't show up for me at the gas station like he promised.

CONNIE
I hate to say this, but what comes around goes around.

AUNT TONIE

Con, it's "What goes around comes around."

CONNIE

That's what I said.

AUNT RAY

Well if Johnny's son was grateful to his father he would do the work.

CONNIE

Grateful for what?

AUNT RAY

Then just show him respect.

EXT THE BALTIMORE TUNNEL TOLL PLAZA DAY

The sedan slows down and enters a "CASH" lane.

BEGIN JOHNNY-BOY'S FANTASY

I/E TOWN CAR SEDAN - TRAVELING DAY

INSERT - ACCELERATOR

Johnny Boy stomps on the pedal.

BACK TO SCENE

The ladies are thrown backwards. The sedan smashes into the concrete embankment and bursts into flame.

JOHNNY-BOY (V.O.)

Only two and a half hours into our trip and this is what I wanted to do.

END FANTASY

I/E TOWN CAR SEDAN - TRAVELING DAY

They pull up to the TOLL TAKER, who holds out her beefy hand. All the sisters rifle through their pocket books.

AUNT RAY
I have the money.

CONNIE
No, I got it.

AUNT TONIE
No, I got it.

JOHNNY-BOY
Oh, for crying out loud!

Johnny Boy reaches into his pocket and pulls out a fistful of crinkled singles. He counts out five dollars and hands it to the Toll Taker.

With an anemic wave, Johnny-Boy pulls away.

I/E THE BALTIMORE TUNNEL DAY

The sedan enters the tunnel and passes flashing signs: "Keep Up Speed. Keep Up Speed."

JOHNNY-BOY (V.O.)
If smoking hadn't killed off all the French philosophers, and Hitler all the German ones, somebody might have survived to say that the American windshield at once reveals and conceals the most compelling of human dramas.

I/E TOWN CAR SEDAN - TRAVELING DAY

CONNIE
Nevermind "Keep Up Speed."

AUNT TONIE
You drive slow.

AUNT RAY
Why don't you's leave him alone?

JOHNNY-BOY (V.O.)
The Fazio sisters. These are three of the surviving four Fazio sisters. Ray, Tonie and Connie. Together the three of them have been widowed five times. I'd say they've lost five husbands but I don't think they'd really go try to find them.

(MORE)

JOHNNY-BOY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 We were all driving down south to
 visit their kid sister, my Aunt
 Fenny. Maybe for the last time.

The sedan pulls out of tunnel and into the brightness of day,
 but when Johnny-Boy's eyes adjust...

DISSOLVE TO

BEGIN JOHNNY-BOY'S DREAM -

INT AUNT FENNY'S HOUSE/DINING ROOM DAY

Johnny-Boy sits at the table, tucks a napkin into his collar
 like a bib and serves himself linguini in tomato sauce from a
 platter.

AUNT FENNY enter with a platter of meatballs. Aunt Fenny is
 a chubby, gray-haired women in her seventies. She stands
 next to Johnny-Boy and scoops six meatballs onto his plate.

END DREAM -

BEGIN FLASHBACK - BEFORE THE ROADTRIP

EXT "NEW WASHINGTON CROSSING LIQUORS" DAY

The store is no longer in the same location, but in a new
 building in a suburban strip mall.

Johnny-Boy, in coat, ski cap and gloves, strolls across the
 parking lot as he talks on his smart phone.

JOHNNY-BOY
 Yeah, so then you served me six
 meatballs.

AUNT FENNY (O.S.)
 (filtered, on phone)
 And we didn't say anything to each
 other?

JOHNNY-BOY
 Nope.

AUNT FENNY (O.S.)
 (filtered, on phone)
 Well, I'm glad my favorite nephew
 is thinking of his auntie.

JOHNNY-BOY
I gotta get back to work. Love ya.

AUNT FENNY (O.S.)
(filtered, on phone)
Love ya too.

He enters...

INT "NEW WASHINGTON CROSSING LIQUORS" DAY

...and waves to BILL DELPONTO, the owner, and PAULINE, the cashier. He slips through swinging doors into the backroom. After a moment he is back, without his coat and gloves, but still in the ski cap. Pauline waves him to help a TALL WOMAN.

PAULINE
Help this lady find the wines from Argentina.

JOHNNY-BOY
Sure. Follow me please to South America way.

He and the Tall Woman wander down an aisle. He points to a shelf. He taps the neck of one bottle. This is the best one for my money.

TALL WOMAN
I'm not spending your money.

Johnny-Boy's smart phone rings and he answers. It's Aunt Fenny again.

JOHNNY-BOY
Yeah auntie?

AUNT FENNY (O.S.)
(filtered, on phone)
I have my dream book with me, Johnny-Boy. And get this... the number for a dream about meat balls is one forty. My address is one forty. So you better play one forty straight and box and you oughta play it six times.

JOHNNY-BOY
Okay, I'll do that.

Johnny-Boy walks back to the cash register.

JOHNNY-BOY (CONT'D)
Guys, I got a hot number.

BILL
What is it?

JOHNNY-BOY
I've got to play one forty straight
and box. But I have to play it six
times. Wait, twelve times. If I
don't play this for my everybody
else then I'll be a dead duck.

INSERT - LOTTERY MACHINE

It spits out twelve tickets into Pauline's hand.

BACK TO SCENE

She kisses them and hands them to Johnny-Boy.

PAULINE
Good luck.

INT FUMAGALLINI HOUSE/LIVING ROOM NIGHT

Connie sits in a robe and knits a wool scarf. She puts down
her needles and picks up pen and pad.

INSERT - TELEVISION

INT LOTTERY DRAWING TV STUDIO SET NIGHT

The HOSTESS stands behind those big air mix machines and
draws the winning Pick-3 numbers. Numbered ping pong balls
slide up to the top of tubes. She turns each to the TV
camera.

HOSTESS
One... Four... Zero.

BACK TO SCENE

Connie throws the pad and pen in the air.

HOSTESS (O.S.)
Tonight's winning Pick-Three number
is one four zero.

Connie leaps out of her chair and HOOTS and HOLLERS. She wrenches her back - OOF! - and grabs her hip.

INSERT - TELEVISION

INT LOTTERY DRAWING TV STUDIO SET

HOSTESS

Ladies and Gentlemen, this will be the last televised drawing of The New Jersey Lottery. To Keep winning you've got to keep playing.

BACK TO SCENE

CONNIE

Va' fa' Nabuulah, you fat no good governor.

INT "NEW WASHINGTON CROSSING LIQUORS" NIGHT

Pauline prints out a list of the winning numbers. A wide smile crosses her face.

JOHNNY-BOY

What came out?

PAULINE

You won! It's one-forty.

BILL

What did it pay?

Johnny-Boy grabs the list and reads it.

JOHNNY-BOY

Woo-hoo!

Bill grabs the list. Johnny-Boy grabs his smart phone and dials.

BILL

Don't expect me to pay out here. You better go down to the Lottery Commission for your prizes.

JOHNNY-BOY

Hello. Hey, Aunt Fenny. Guess what came out tonight? Yup.

(MORE)

JOHNNY-BOY (CONT'D)
 (listens)
 She says the news nearly cured her.

EXT "NEW WASHINGTON CROSSING LIQUORS" NIGHT

Alone, Johnny Boy turns out the lights and locks up the store. He pulls the gate down in front of the entrance. He carries a brown paper bag.

EXT SUBURBAN STREET NIGHT

Johnny-Boy walks along a dark, quiet block, past dark, quiet homes.

INT FUMAGALLINI HOUSE/KITCHEN NIGHT

Johnny-Boy opens the door with his keys and enters. He switches on the light and disarms a security alarm. He drops the brown bag on the table and slumps into a chair. He pulls out a bottle of Seagram's Seven and a six pack of Diet Sprite.

CONNIE (O.S.)
 (shouts)
 Johnny, is that you?

He grabs a rocks glass from a cabinet and pours a four count of Seagram's Seven.

JOHNNY-BOY
 No, mom, it's some black guy who's here to steal everything but thought he'd turn on all the lights first.

He opens the Diet Sprite and adds an equal amount.

CONNIE (O.S.)
 (shouts)
 That ain't funny. It could be a Puerto Rican because we know coloreds can see in the dark.

With that, he wags his head, grabs the Seagrams Seven and adds more whiskey to the glass.

JOHNNY-BOY
 I think I'll call you a Seven-and-Something.

CONNIE (O.S.)
 Congratulations. You hit on one-
 forty.

JOHNNY-BOY
 It paid really well.

CONNIE
 Really? That's great.

He lifts the glass as in a toast.

JOHNNY-BOY
 Salut , Mamma!

FADE TO

INT AUNT TONIE'S APARTMENT/BEDROOM NIGHT

She sleeps soundly and snores in short WHISTLES.

AUNT TONIE'S DREAM -

INT AUNT TONIE'S APARTMENT/BEDROOM DAY

A thick, white mist fills the space and lights shine from the foot of the bed.

An elderly man and elderly woman, MOM and POP walk out of the light. These are the Fazio sisters' parents, Johnny-Boy's grandparents. Mom tucks her arm under Pop's. She calls Aunt Tonie and Aunt Fenny by their proper given names, Antoinette and Fenicia.

MOM
 Don't-ah you worry, Antoinette,
 about you-ah sister, Fenicia. She
 be with-ah pop and me soon.

END DREAM

INT AUNT TONIE'S APARTMENT/BEDROOM NIGHT

Aunt Tonie wakes and looks around. The room is dark and unchanged from earlier.

INT AUNT TONIE'S APARTMENT/KITCHEN DAY

Johnny Boy sits with Connie, Aunt Ray and Aunt Tonie at the dinette table. They play nickel-ante poker. Aunt Tonie lays ten cards out, in two rows of five, across the middle of the table next to the jackpot. Aunt Tonie turns each of those ten cards over.

AUNT TONIE

I swear, Mom and Pop were as plain as day. And Mom did what she always did. She called us by our Christian names.

CONNIE

What's wild?

AUNT RAY

Nothin's wild. I talked to Fenny yesterday and she sounded okay.

JOHNNY-BOY

We been having a lot of dreams about her.

CONNIE

What's wild?

AUNT TONIE

Nothin's wild! What do ya keep asking me for?

CONNIE

Keep yer shoes on yer feet and yer feet on the floor.

JOHNNY-BOY

You didn't tell her about Aunt Tonie's dream, did you?

AUNT RAY

I didn't know about it.

CONNIE

Did you play Mom and Pop's address?

AUNT TONIE

Yeah, I was out this morning.

AUNT RAY

Whatta keepin' it to yourself for? Why didn't you tell us you had this dream earlier so we could all play Mom and Pop's address?

CONNIE
I'm gonna call Mister Singh and ask
if he'll play them for me.

Connie takes the wallphone and dials the number of a local
convenience store. Johnny Boy checks his smartphone.

INSERT - SMART PHONE

He navigates to the New Jersey Lottery website for results.

BACK TO SCENE

JOHNNY-BOY
Grandmom and Grandpop's address
didn't come out midday.

CONNIE
(shouts into phone)
Hey Mister Singh. This is Connie.
Missus Fumagallini. You got time
to play a couple for me? All right
then I'll see you later.
(hangs up)
Freakin' gully-gully.

Tonie turns over a card in one of the rows: an eight.

AUNT TONIE
That's no good...

She throws it on a pile of eights in the same row.

JOHNNY-BOY
Do you want to go down and visit
Aunt Fenny?

AUNT TONIE
How the hell are we supposed to get
there?

Tonie flips over a card: the Jack of hearts, a one-eyed Jack.

INSERT - THE JACK OF HEARTS

Its eye catches Johnny Boy's eye and seems to speak to him.

JOHNNY-BOY (V.O.)
You know you must take them.

JOHNNY'S POV - CONNIE AND HIS AUNTS

Everyone else at the table stares at Johnny Boy too.

BACK TO SCENE

JOHNNY-BOY

I won all that money on the number,
I can take some time off.

AUNT RAY

That would be good if you can.

JOHNNY-BOY

I have to check with my boss about
taking time off.

CONNIE

He's your buddy.

AUNT TONIE

Yeah, he's your buddy. He'll let
you take off.

JOHNNY-BOY

He's my boss first.

Connie holds her cards next to the single four in one of the
rows on the table.

CONNIE

Oooh! I think I've got a royal.

AUNT RAY

That's a pair of fours.

CONNIE

Didn't ya say fours was wild.

A chorus responds.

AUNT RAY/AUNT TONIE/JOHNNY-BOY

Nothin's wild.

CONNIE

Oh...

Aunt Ray shows her cards: a high straight. She drags the
jackpot of nickels towards her. Johnny Boy looks at his
watch.

JOHNNY-BOY

All right, once more around then I gotta go to work.

He gathers the cards and shuffles them with some flair.

JOHNNY-BOY (CONT'D)

The Jack was telling me to play Deuces and Jacks and the Man With the Axe.

AUNT TONIE

Johnny-Boy, are you at the gas station or the liquor store tonight?

JOHNNY-BOY

The gas station.

AUNT TONIE

Then I'll come over to fill up my tank later.

AUNT RAY

It's a shame the only job you can find is pumping gas.

CONNIE

He's lucky he got that.

JOHNNY-BOY

Okay, Mom, for your sake there are nine wild cards.

CONNIE

What are they?

Again a chorus...

AUNT RAY/AUNT TONIE/JOHNNY-BOY

Deuces and Jacks and the Man With the Axe, the King Of Diamonds.

CONNIE

I knew that.

EXT CAPITOL GAS STATION NIGHT

Johnny Boy works the night shift. And it's a cold night. He yanks the nozzle of a gas pump out of car and screws on the cap. He shuts the door and the driver, a YOUNG MAN, hands him fifteen dollars through an open window.

The car pulls out of the station and as it goes, rings the bells - CLANG CLANG.

JOHNNY-BOY (V.O.)

There are two facts you gotta remember about New Jersey: you can't pump your own gas and they only sell beer in liquor stores. This means you can't buy beer and gasoline at the same place. Now this appears to be a reasonable connection between the two, but as with most things in life, there is no reasonable connection.

Johnny-Boy returns to...

INT CAPITOL GAS STATION/OFFICE NIGHT

...and puts the cash in the register. A young Pakistani woman, VEELY, sits on a desk. She has a Trigonometry text book in her lap and scribbles into a spiral notebook.

Johnny-Boy sits down and puts on his reading glasses. He puts his feet up on the desk and opens Jim Marrs' The Sisterhood Of the Rose, which he holds with his left hand.

He slips his right hand between Veely's legs and up into her skirt.

JOHNNY-BOY

Don't forget to show your work.

VEELY

How can I concentrate on sines and cosines when you're working on my tangent?

Veely takes a swig from a bottle of Smirnoff Ice. The bells CLANG CLANG again to announce another customer.

JOHNNY-BOY'S POV - GAS PUMPS

EXT CAPITOL GAS STATION NIGHT

Aunt Tonie's Gran Torino pulls alongside the pumps.

I/E CAPITOL GAS STATION NIGHT

JOHNNY-BOY

Figures.

Johnny-Boy throws down the book and goes out to the Gran Torino. He wipes his right hand on his pants. Aunt Tonie rolls down the window and he kisses her.

AUNT TONIE

Gimme ten dollars worth.

JOHNNY-BOY

Geez, that'll barely get you back home.

He puts the gas nozzle into the filler tube and starts the pump. Aunt Tonie holds a Tupperware container out the window.

AUNT TONIE

Here's some stuffed peppers I know ya like.

JOHNNY-BOY

Does the meat have raisins in it?

AUNT TONIE

Yeah, just like you like 'em. Did you talk to your buddy about taking the time off?

JOHNNY-BOY

No, I'll see him tomorrow at the store and ask him.

AUNT TONIE

Is that somebody in there with you?

JOHNNY-BOY

Nuh-uh.

He takes ten dollars and the Tupperware out of her hand and she drives off - CLANG CLANG.

Johnny Boy sits down in the office again. Veely slams the text book shut but splays her legs wide open.

VEELY

Why can't I understand this stuff?
I'm Asian for frack sake!

JOHNNY-BOY

I hate raisins in stuffed peppers.
You want a stuffed pepper?

VEELY

What's a stuffed pepper?

He opens the Tupperware and as he sticks a fork in one of the stuffed peppers - CLANG CLANG! A car horn BLASTS. Johnny Boy takes one bite and throws the Tupperware on the table.

He goes outside as - CLANG CLANG - a second car pulls up.

INT FUMAGALLINI HOUSE/KITCHEN NIGHT

Johnny-Boy opens the door with his keys and enters. He switches on the light and disarms a security alarm. He mixes a Seven-and-Something.

CONNIE (O.S.)

(shouts)

Johnny, is that you?

JOHNNY-BOY

No, Mom, it's a smart Puerto Rican who figured out your alarm code.

CONNIE (O.S.)

(shouts)

That ain't funny. Some a' them are smart.

He wags his head, grabs the Seagrams Seven and adds more whiskey to the glass.

JOHNNY-BOY

Seagrams, take me away.

He takes a long drink.

CONNIE (O.S.)

(shouts)

What came out tonight?

Johnny Boy grabs his smart phone and looks up the lottery website.

JOHNNY-BOY

Dad's death number.

CONNIE (O.S.)

(shouts)

Really?

JOHNNY-BOY
No. It was Two-Oh-Nine.

CONNIE (O.S.)
(shouts)
Really?

JOHNNY-BOY
Yes.

CONNIE (O.S.)
(shouts)
I think I hit.

He lifts the glass as in a toast.

JOHNNY-BOY
Saluté, Mamma!

INT "NEW WASHINGTON CROSSING LIQUORS"/STORE ROOM DAY

By turns, first Bill and then Johnny-Boy lie across cases of beer and lift five-liter casks of Franzia wine, three with each hand. They struggle but laugh heartily.

JOHNNY-BOY (V.O.)
A guy I know from high school, Bill DelPonto, owns a couple of liquor stores, which he inherited from his father, who you met earlier, and a couple of gas stations. I make a few bucks working for him. He makes a couple of bucks off me and my love for lottery.

JOHNNY-BOY
I need to take a few days off.

BILL
A little holiday? With your co-ed?

JOHNNY-BOY
Far from it. I want to take my mom and my aunties down south to see Aunt Fenny.

BILL
I didn't know she had cancer.

JOHNNY-BOY
It's not cancer but what she's got will kill her.

(MORE)

JOHNNY-BOY (CONT'D)

My cousin told me we should get down there sooner rather than later. This could be a last visit.

BILL

After that you'll need a visit to a sanitarium.

JOHNNY-BOY

Yeah...

BILL

Terminal, huh? I can give you time off from the store but I don't have anybody to replace you at the gas station.

JOHNNY-BOY

C'mon, man, I have never asked for any time off.

BILL

I can't just shut down the gas station.

JOHNNY-BOY

What if I can find somebody to fill in for me?

Bill drops the Franzia and shakes Johnny Boy's hand.

BILL

That's a deal.

INT "NEW WASHINGTON CROSSING LIQUORS" DAY

Behind the cash register, Johnny Boy furiously works a one dollar scratch-off ticket with a quarter. His enthusiasm amuses Bill and Pauline.

JOHNNY-BOY

C'mon jackpot!

He sweeps the gray crumbs away and checks the results.

JOHNNY-BOY (CONT'D)

A buck. Made my money back.

KIRBY and MARKY, two twenty somethings, bring cases of Genessee Cream Ale to the counter.

KIRBY
 (snarkily)
 Sounds like you can afford to go
 back and get your doctorate.

Johnny Boy rings up their purchase.

JOHNNY-BOY
 Why do you kids keep buying that
 panther spit?

KIRBY
 Please, innkeeper, just the suds,
 and save your psychology. Do you
 have a message for your son?

JOHNNY-BOY
 Tell him I specifically ignored
 asking about him.

Kirby turns around to Marky.

KIRBY
 Dad specifically ignored asking
 about you.

Marky shrugs.

MARKY
 Tell him it might matter to me if
 he tried harder in the King Lear
 department.

BILL
 He tried harder at everything. Now
 he works two crumby jobs for me.
 And I didn't try hard at all.

JOHNNY-BOY
 Tell your brother, "See."

Kirby turns around again to Marky.

MARKY
 I heard him, I heard him. Now I'm
 gonna go drown my sorrows at being
 an orphan.

Marky and Kirby turn and leave.

PAULINE
 Why don't you go ask Kirby to work
 for you at the gas station.

EXT "NEW WASHINGTON CROSSING LIQUORS" DAY

Johnny Boy follows them out to their car and talks to Kirby.

JOHNNY-BOY

When's your Spring Break and what
are you doing?

KIRBY

In three weeks, why?"

END FLASHBACK

I/E TOWN CAR SEDAN - TRAVELING DAY

On I-95 in Virginia, they approach the first billboard for
South Of the Border

INSERT - SOUTH OF THE BORDER BILLBOARD

The sign features a Poker hand of two aces, the ten of clubs,
the Queen of hearts and the three of spades.

BACK TO SCENE

Aunt Tonie reads the billboard message.

AUNT TONIE

Look, "You never sausage a place."

AUNT RAY

What the heck's that mean?

CONNIE

You can get sausages there.

AUNT RAY

Look, it has a hand of cards and
says, "Beeg Deal".

AUNT TONIE

Yeah, it's a lousy hand. Just a
pair of freakin' aces.

CONNIE

And you can be sure nothing's wild.

BEGIN FLASHBACK - BEFORE THE ROADTRIP

I/E 1995 BLACK PONTIAC GRAND AM - TRAVELING DAY

Johnny Boy drives Connie's car out across the suburbs.

EXT AUNT RAY'S TOWNHOUSE DAY

He pulls up next to her seldom driven but familiar town car sedan.

INT AUNT RAY'S TOWNHOUSE/KITCHEN DAY

Johnny-Boy gives his Aunt Ray pours a hug and kiss. She motions for him to sit at the table.

AUNT RAY
Wanna cup a' coffee?

JOHNNY-BOY
Yeah, please.

Aunt Ray fills a pot with water and pours it into the drip coffee machine. She gets the can of coffee from the refrigerator and with the door still open...

AUNT RAY
Split a Tasty Kake coffee cake?

JOHNNY-BOY
Oh yeah!

Aunt Ray tosses a pack from onto the table. She puts the coffee in the basket and starts it. She sits next to Johnny-Boy.

AUNT RAY
How much ya need this time?

JOHNNY-BOY
No, I came to pay you back. A little bit at least.

He puts an envelope on the table.

AUNT RAY
Well, whatta ya know?

She opens the envelope and flips the bills.

AUNT RAY (CONT'D)
You're right, a little bit. But I appreciate the effort.

JOHNNY-BOY
But I do have a favor to ask.

AUNT RAY
Shoulda known there was a catch.

JOHNNY-BOY
Mom's car is small and it'll be
uncomfortable to ride all the way
down to Aunt Fenny's.

AUNT RAY
It was good for trips to Atlantic
City.

JOHNNY-BOY
This isn't Atlantic City. This if
twelve hours.

AUNT RAY
So?

JOHNNY-BOY
I was thinking, let's use your car.
It's big and roomy.

AUNT RAY
Okay...

JOHNNY-BOY
But it should get a tune up.

AUNT RAY
How much will that cost?

Johnny-Boy motions to the envelope.

AUNT RAY (CONT'D)
Easy come, easy go.

END FLASHBACK

I/E TOWN CAR SEDAN - TRAVELING DAY

On I-95, now in North Carolina.

CONNIE
Are we still in Virginia?

JOHNNY-BOY

No, mom, not since we passed that sign that said, "Welcome To North Carolina." First in flight indeed.

INSERT - BLUE ROAD SIGN

"Rest Stop In Two Miles"

BACK TO SCENE

AUNT RAY

Could anyone use some rest?

JOHNNY-BOY

Yeah, that got stale about a hundred and eighty eight miles ago.

AUNT RAY

Should I write that on a check?

CONNIE

I don't have to stop.

AUNT TONIE

I don't have to stop either.

CONNIE

Johnny.

JOHNNY-BOY

Yeah mom?

CONNIE

I'm wrong. I think we better stop.

AUNT RAY

Maybe we can play lottery in there.

INSERT - ANOTHER SOUTH OF THE BORDER BILLBOARD

The sign features a big frankfurter.

BACK TO SCENE

Aunt Tonie reads the billboard message.

AUNT TONIE

Look, "You never sausage a place."

AUNT RAY
What the heck's that mean?

CONNIE
You can get sausages there.

EXT NORTH CAROLINA REST STOP/PARKING LOT DAY

Johnny-Boy leans against the hood of the town car sedan. He stares at his watch.

JOHNNY-BOY
What the Sam Hill is taking so long?

He tromps off.

I/E NORTH CAROLINA REST STOP/ENTRANCE

Johnny-Boy finds the sisters around a Pepsi vending machine.

JOHNNY-BOY
What are you doing?

CONNIE
We wanna get a Pepsi.

The Pepsi vending machine has multiple large buttons that read "Pepsi," as well as one button each for Diet Pepsi, Mountain Dew, and bottled water.

JOHNNY-BOY
So you put your money in and you can push the button that says "Pepsi" for Pepsi or this button or this button or even this button.

CONNIE
Don't raise your voice.

AUNT RAY
I think I want a Coke.

AUNT TONIE
Me too.

CONNIE
Well, I already put money in the Pepsi machine.

AUNT TONIE
They should put a lottery
concession here.

I/E TOWN CAR SEDAN - TRAVELING DAY

The sisters all drink their Pepsi Colas.

JOHNNY-BOY
Hits the spot?

AUNT TONIE
Huh?

AUNT RAY
"Pepsi Cola hits the spot."
Remember?

AUNT TONIE
You know they should have had a
lottery concession in there.

CONNIE
Did you have a newsstand in the
Department Of Labor building? We
had a news stand in the Department
Of Treasury. A blind guy ran it.

AUNT TONIE
Yeah, a blind guy worked our
newsstand too.

CONNIE
And you know, some people don't
wanna work at all. They just wanna
take a hand-out.

JOHNNY-BOY
Did any of you talk to your niece
Laura about what time visiting
hours are or what time she'll be at
the hospital?

AUNT TONIE
She said to call her when we get
into South Carolina and then she'll
tell us how to get there.

INSERT - YET ANOTHER SOUTH OF THE BORDER BILLBOARD

This one reads, "Pedro's Weather Report: Chili Today. Hot
Tamale."

BACK TO SCENE

JOHNNY-BOY
Perfect. I know just where we'll
stop.

I/E TOWN CAR SEDAN - TRAVELING LATER

At dusk, the sedan pulls off I-95 at North Carolina Exit 1.

In the distance rises up the South Of the Border observation tower, with its huge yellow sombrero roof, bright against the dark and pink sky.

The car follows the road, which loops around to Route 301/501.

It passes a sign, "Welcome To South Carolina".

Johnny-Boy smiles as he turns into a driveway. Tall, bright neon lights fill the windshield.

EXT SOUTH OF THE BORDER (DILLON, SOUTH CAROLINA) DAY

JOHNNY-BOY
"Thees mus' be dee place" amigos!

He pulls into a parking spot and they all get out. Johnny-Boy looks around.

JOHNNY-BOY (CONT'D)
The Vatican City Of roadside attractions.

JOHNNY-BOY'S POV - SOUTH OF THE BORDER

<http://www.thesouthoftheborder.com/gallery/?album=2&gallery=7>

I/E SOUTH OF THE BORDER/MEXICO SHOP DAY

Johnny-Boy follows the Sisters into the store. He shields his eyes from the blast of fluorescent lights. Everywhere horridly tacky souvenirs and t-shirts, all with some offensively phony Mexican theme.

AUNT TONIE
I don't see a sign for lottery.

CONNIE

How do you say "lottery" in Mexican?

JOHNNY-BOY

I don't know. I'm looking for the sign that says, "El Bagno."

I/E SOUTH OF THE BORDER/MEXICO SHOP LATER

Aunt Ray tries on a nearly authentic-looking red sombrero. Aunt Tonie tries on a wide-brimmed straw hat. She tries to put a gaucho hat on Connie's head but she ducks away and smacks her hand.

CONNIE

Cut it out, Tonie! You'll muss my hair.

AUNT TONIE

C'mon, sis, you can be one of the three...

(mispronounces)

...caballeros.

CONNIE

I don't want to be a freaking...

(mispronounces)

...caballeros.

Johnny Boy stands at the check-out counter with his phone between to his ear and a pen in hand. He speaks to his cousin LAURA, Aunt Fenny's daughter. He scribbles directions on his map, blue ink in the blue of the Atlantic Ocean.

JOHNNY-BOY

No, I don't have a G. P. S. in the car.

(listens)

Yes I know it's the twenty first century but it's not my car and your Aunt Ray who owns the car probably doesn't know it's the twenty first century.

(listens)

Hopefully we'll be at the hospital by the time you get to there. Look forward to seeing you too.

(listens)

Just me, not you aunts?

(listens)

All right. Bye.

He ends the call and looks around.

Johnny Boy again finds the Sisters around a Pepsi vending machine.

JOHNNY-BOY (CONT'D)

Laura gave me directions to the hospital. It should be pretty easy to get to.

AUNT TONIE

Are you sure you want to go to the hospital?

CONNIE

Why don't we just go to Fenny's house and call it a day.

JOHNNY-BOY

I didn't drive twelve hours to watch cable TV. I came down here to see Aunt Fenny

EXT SOUTH OF THE BORDER NIGHT

Johnny-Boy steers the car out of the parking lot and passes the tall Pedro sign in front of the main office.

I/E TOWN CAR SEDAN - TRAVELING NIGHT

Johnny-Boy pushes forward along the dark woodlands of I-20 East. Three full bottles of Pepsi Cola sit in cup holders. Johnny Boy hears a few snores from his passengers and he is truly alone on the night highway. White headlights pierce his eyes through whilst bright white and dull red streak out from the blindside.

The car exits the highway and navigates to the hospital.

EXT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ENTRANCE NIGHT

Johnny-Boy follows the Sister through the front doors.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/RECEPTION NIGHT

They line up at the desk. The African-American security officer, DEEK, jumps up.

DEEK

Can I help you all?

CONNIE

Is there a place to play the
lottery here?

JOHNNY-BOY

Mom! Sir, we're all here to see
Fenny Bevilacqua.

DEEK

That'll be room eight fourteen.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ELEVATOR

Johnny-Boy and the Sisters have The share the ride upstairs
with a NURSE and ORDERLY.

AUNT RAY

Seems like a nice hospital.

AUNT TONIE

The elevator's nice.

CONNIE

We're here from New Jersey to see
our sister.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/EIGHTH FLOOR HALLWAY

Johnny-Boy and the Sisters wander through sets of automatic
doors. They arrive at room eight fourteen.

JOHNNY-BOY

Ready, ladies?

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ROOM 814

They find Aunt Fenny as she sits on the edge of her bed and
sips water from a styrofoam cup. Tubes sprout from both
black and blue arms, from under the hem of her gown and from
out of her nostrils. Her cheeks are chimpunk puffy.

JOHNNY-BOY

Can I give you a kiss?

AUNT FENNY

Oh Lord! Oh Lord! Look who it is!
Holy mackerel Andy! Help me up.

Johnny-Boy helps Aunt Fenny stand. She hugs and kisses all
her Sisters, who then throw their bags onto a cot in the
corner of the room.

AUNT RAY/CONNIE/AUNT TONIE
 Hey Sis! Good to see you.

AUNT FENNY
 Let me sit down. Let me sit down.

Johnny-Boy holds Aunt Fenny as she settles onto the bed.
 Without a sound she slumps back on her pillow.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/EIGHTH FLOOR HALLWAY

Aunt Tonie bursts out of the room.

AUNT TONIE
 (panicked, shouts)
 Nurse! Nurse!

One African-American male nurse, KEVIN, and one African-American female nurse, CAMILLA, rush from the nurse's station.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ROOM 814

Camilla and Kevin find Fenny to be unconscious. Kevin looks at the heart monitor. Camilla pushes everyone but Aunt Ray to the side.

KEVIN
 Heart rate regular but slow.

Aunt Ray pats Aunt Fenny's cheek. Johnny Boy calls to her from the foot of the bed.

JOHNNY-BOY
 C'mon Auntie, we didn't come all
 this way to see you napping.

Connie sits in a chair in the corner and cries. More NURSES wheel in more equipment. Johnny-Boy shepherds the Sisters out of the room.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/LOUNGE LATER

The Sisters stare out into the parking lot, dry their eyes and blow their noses. Johnny-Boy stands in a corner and talks on his smart phone.

CONNIE
 Did we scare her to death?

AUNT TONIE

You're crazy. She knew we were coming.

JOHNNY-BOY

The trip? That was uneventful. The drama began when we arrived. Aunt Fenny collapsed into a coma. Cousin Laura has been in with a doctor.

Laura, Aunt Fenny's daughter, joins them. Laura is a dark-haired woman in her late thirties. She sits down.

JOHNNY-BOY (CONT'D)

She's here now. Let me go kiddo. And hey... thanks.

AUNT TONIE

Did we scare your mother to death?

LAURA

No. Don't be crazy. They haven't figured out what happened and they've got to take an M. R. I. and who knows what else.

AUNT RAY

Is my sister gonna come out of this?

LAURA

They don't know what'll happen to my mother. But she's stable now. Just let me relax for a couple moments and then I'll bring you to mom's house.

INT AUNT FENNY'S HOUSE/GUEST BEDROOM DAY

Johnny-Boy sleeps in a twin bed. Somewhere in the house, the ceaseless VROOM of a vacuum cleaner starts. It becomes louder and louder until Johnny-Boy wakes up. He looks at the clock. It's 6:55. He sits up and sniffs around.

JOHNNY-BOY

At least someone's made coffee.

INT AUNT FENNY'S HOUSE/HALLWAY

Johnny-Boy wears a t-shirt and sweat pants as he yawns and walks through the house. Connie stops the vacuum and kisses him.

JOHNNY-BOY
G'morning Mom.

CONNIE
'Morning.

INSERT - FRAMED PHOTOS ON WALL

Connie uses a Swiffer duster to clean the framed family photos: Aunt Fenny with her husband; school portraits of Laura's daughters; two photos of all nine Fazio Sisters together. One is a slightly faded color group portrait from around 1970. The other photo is a black and white group portrait from the 1940s. A twenty-year old Connie, a bride in white, is in the center.

BACK TO SCENE

Johnny-Boy waves his thumb at the old photo.

JOHNNY-BOY
Hey Mom. This is from your first wedding, right?

CONNIE
Yeah, that's my first wedding.

Connie points to herself.

CONNIE (CONT'D)
I was quite a looker back then.

JOHNNY-BOY
Yeah, a true rose among the rubbish.

AUNT RAY (O.S.)
Johnny-Boy, you want some coffee?

JOHNNY-BOY
Please.

INT AUNT FENNY'S HOUSE/KITCHEN

Aunt Tonie dunks a sponge mop into a bucket right and scrubs the linoleum floor. Just as he steps into the supremely bright room, Johnny-Boy turns his head and shields his eyes. He trips over the mop handle and falls onto a bucket. He knocks it over and gets soaked.

AUNT TONIE

Watch where you're going.

Aunt Ray pours him a cup of coffee.

CONNIE (O.S.)

What happened?

Johnny-Boy takes a gulp of coffee.

AUNT TONIE

Your son ruined my clean floor.

AUNT RAY

At least now he won't have to take a shower.

In another room, Connie turns on the vacuum cleaner again.

AUNT TONIE

You can't sit there like that. Soaking wet.

JOHNNY-BOY

Watch me.

I/E TOWN CAR SEDAN - TRAVELING DAY

Johnny-Boy drives around town to the hospital.

CONNIE

Do you think she's gonna wake up?

AUNT RAY

Sure. She's tough.

AUNT TONIE

Johnny Boy, do you remember how to get there?

CONNIE

I don't think she'll make it.

AUNT RAY

Whadda ya gotta hang the crepe so soon?

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/RECEPTION DAY

An African-American woman, SHANA, issues the passes to Johnny-Boy and the Sisters. Tonie leans over to Shana.

CONNIE

(whispers)

Tell me...

(looks down at name tag)

Shana, where can you play lottery around here?

SHANA

It depends. Do you all wanna play or do you all wanna win?

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ROOM 814

They enter to find that the unconscious Fenny is propped up and motionless on the half-raised bed. Her eyes are open and wet and red but blank. She is attached to a respirator, monitors and a glucose drip. The Sisters get misty eyed. Ray pats Fenny on the cheek.

AUNT RAY

C'mon kid. We ain't here to watch you nap.

AUNT TONIE

Hey jerk, be careful of the oxygen mask.

Aunt Tonie lifts the urine drainage bag at the side of the bed, which is about a quarter full.

AUNT TONIE (CONT'D)

I wonder if they emptied that since last night.

AUNT RAY

Now you be careful. There ain't no M. D. after your name.

Aunt Tonie opens her pocket book, takes out a tissue and wipes her teary eyes. Connie opens her pocket book, takes out a tissue, wipes her teary eyes and blows her nose. Aunt Ray opens her pocket book, and takes out a deck of playing cards.

AUNT RAY (CONT'D)
I didn't bring my nickels.

CONNIE
Me neither.

Johnny-Boy looks around the room. He then opens the night stand drawer in which he finds a bag of cough drops.

JOHNNY-BOY
Here we go.

He empties the cough drops onto the bed and divides them up into four equal piles.

JOHNNY-BOY (CONT'D)
We can use these to bet with.

CONNIE
Aren't you clever, son.

Aunt Ray slides the food tray table over Fenny's chest.

AUNT RAY
This'll be good. It'll stimulate her.

All four gather around the bed. They each ante up a cough drop into the middle of the table. Aunt Ray shuffles the cards. She holds them out to Aunt Fenny.

AUNT RAY (CONT'D)
Fencia, you wanna cut the cards?

JOHNNY-BOY
(mimics her)
Let 'er ride.

CONNIE
Dammit, that's not funny.

JOHNNY-BOY
Unbelievable? Yes. Unfunny? No.

Aunt Ray deals out the cards.

CONNIE
What's wild?

AUNT RAY/AUNT TONIE/JOHNNY-BOY
Nothing's wild.

Aunt Ray shows her hand to Aunt Fenny's.

AUNT RAY
Should I stay in or fold?

To their surprise, Fenny makes GRUNTS.

JOHNNY-BOY
Groan once for check and twice to
raise.

Fenny GRUNTS again.

AUNT TONIE
She ain't gonna tell you to raise
'cause this is a friendly game.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ROOM 814 LATER

INSERT - URINE DRAINAGE BAG

The level of the liquid contents rises to about half full.

BACK TO SCENE

Aunt Tonie is out of the game. Johnny-Boy, Aunt Ray and
Connie show their cards.

CONNIE
What's wild?

AUNT RAY/AUNT TONIE/JOHNNY-BOY
Nothing!

JOHNNY-BOY
It's straight poker.

AUNT RAY
It's your pot nephew.

Johnny-Boy takes all the cough drops.

The door flies open and a Filipina orderly, SABINA, runs in.

SABINA
My goodness, what in God's Holy
Name are you doing?

AUNT TONIE
Missus Bevilacqua is our sister.

CONNIE

We're just trying to stimulate her brain.

AUNT RAY

And it's working too. Watch.

Aunt Ray takes the deck and puts together a royal straight. She fans out the cards and shows them to Aunt Fenny who SQUEALS twice.

AUNT RAY (CONT'D)

She wants me to raise.

JOHNNY-BOY

So much for a friendly game.

SABINA

She may want you to raise, but I want y'all to leave. I gotta get Miz Bevilacqua cleaned up.

AUNT TONIE

Well, Johnny-Boy, since you won all the cough drops, you can pay for lunch.

INT "LIZARD'S THICKET" RESTAURANT DAY

Johnny-Boy finishes up his chicken fried steak. The Sisters each leave half a hamburger on their plates.

AUNT TONIE

Ray, remember when we was driving back from Miami that time? We stopped in this restaurant and I couldn't get no service.

Aunt Tonie and Aunt Ray LAUGH at the recollection.

JOHNNY-BOY

Is this when you were so tan the waitress thought you were black?

AUNT RAY

Your uncles were laughing so hard.

JOHNNY-BOY

What'd you do?

AUNT TONIE

I called the stupid waitress over and said I ain't black.

JOHNNY-BOY
If only it was that easy.

AUNT RAY
Your uncles laughed about that the
whole rest of the trip.

JOHNNY-BOY
Good thing you didn't tell them you
were Italian. Forget about not
getting served.

Their waiter, an older African-American woman, comes to the
table. Her name tag reads "PAMMY".

JOHNNY-BOY (CONT'D)
They would've put you out of the
restaurant.

PAMMY
I couldn't help overhear y'all
reminiscin'.

JOHNNY-BOY
(sort of embarrassed)
You don't accept cough drops as
payment do you?

EXT "LIZARD'S THICKET" RESTAURANT DAY

The town car sedan pulls up to the red light at the
intersecton outside the Lizard's Thicket. The right-turn
blinker flashes.

CONNIE (O.S.)
Let's go find Shana's store and
play some numbers.

AUNT TONIE (O.S.)
Yeah, let's see if our luck
improves.

I/E CONVENIENCE STORE DAY

The place is empty, except for the NELLIE, the cashier, a
woman around sixty years old.

AUNT TONIE
We were told we'd get lucky here.

NELLIE

Y'all ain't my type by maybe I'm on
the wrong page.

AUNT RAY

We want to play some numbers.

CONNIE

We're here from New Jersey to see
our sister. She's sick in the
hospital down the road.

NELLIE

Now I know what you're looking for,
I can help you.

She grabs a six inch long optical scanner play slip to show
them how to fill it out.

NELLIE (CONT'D)

Y'all have to take this card. Then
you fill in the numbers.

AUNT TONIE

Do we really have to do that?
Can't you key them in?

JOHNNY-BOY'S POV - PLAY SLIP

He grabs one and looks it over, with its columns of circles
and boxes and blanks.

BACK TO SCENE

JOHNNY-BOY

This looks like an S. A. T. test.

NELLIE

We ain't busy. I could help y'all.

AUNT RAY

And don't forget, we're gonna want
some scratch-offs.

NELLIE

Scratch-offs?

JOHNNY-BOY

Instant lottery tickets, hon.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ROOM 814 DAY

Johnny-Boy leans on the windowsill and checks his smart phone for e-mails. The Sisters sit around the bed and furiously scratch at their instant lottery tickets. They scratch and scratch, then sweep the gray latex crumbs into the waste basket.

CONNIE

I knew they'd sell scratch-offs
down at the newstand.

AUNT RAY

Haven't won a darn thing.

Aunt Tonie throws her card at Fenny's feet

AUNT TONIE

Insalat'!

CONNIE

Oh I think I won.

AUNT TONIE

Let me see.

Aunt Tonie takes the ticket to inspect it.

AUNT TONIE (CONT'D)

Yeah, I think you did win. But
these freakin' rules are hard to
figure out.

Connie grabs the ticket and hands it to Johnny-Boy.

CONNIE

Here, you check.

He doesn't look up from his smart phone.

JOHNNY-BOY

Mom, the only thing I can tell you
is that the odds of you winning are
better than the odds of me figuring
it out.

Aunt Ray takes the ticket and shows it to Aunt Fenny.

AUNT RAY

Is this a winner?

Fenny WHIMPERS.

CONNIE
That sounds like disappointment.

INSERT - JOHNNY-BOY'S SMART PHONE SCREEN

Johnny Boy scrolls through some "Help Wanted" search results.

BACK TO SCENE

JOHNNY-BOY
You know, mom, there seem to be a lot of jobs around here that I'm qualified for.

CONNIE
Sure, there's a gas station on every corner and the law requires people have to buy liquor in liquor stores.

JOHNNY-BOY
Yeah, and warehouse and traffic jobs too.

AUNT RAY
Would you move down here?

JOHNNY-BOY
Can't hurt to consider it.

Aunt Tonie looks at her watch. It's 4:00.

AUNT TONIE
You know what time it is? It's time for Fenny's favorite program.

Aunt Tonie grabs a remote control. She turns on the TV and searches the dial. She settles on a popular talk show.

INSERT - TV SCREEN

INT TALK SHOW SET DAY

ELLEN, a forty-something woman with short, blond hair, dances very badly to loud audience APPLAUSE and CHEERS.

BACK TO SCENE

JOHNNY-BOY

Oh no. Anything but this
untalented harridan.

AUNT TONIE

It's Fenny's favorite show. She
watches it every day.

JOHNNY-BOY

She watches this? A show hosted by
a les... les... less talented
personality a millionaire's money
can't buy.

AUNT TONIE

Stata 'zeet'!

AUNT RAY

Go peddle your papers.

Johnny-Boy leaves.

EXT PALMETTO HOSPITAL/EMERGENCY ROOM ENTRANCE DAY

Johnny Boy loiters nearby and counts the PATIENTS who enter
or are taken in by various means. He puts hash marks on the
back of a lottery ticket. He pockets the card and walks off.

EXT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ENTRANCE

Johnny-Boy takes out his smart phone.

INSERT - SMART PHONE

Johnny-Boy scrolls through his directory and rings up Bill.

BACK TO SCENE

Johnny Boy leans against a brick pillar.

BILL (O.S.)

(filtered, on phone)

Hey hey hey.

JOHNNY-BOY

I take it my son showed up last
night or I would have heard from
you.

BILL (O.S.)
 (filtered, on phone)
 Yeah he did. But there's a lot of
 trouble up here.

JOHNNY-BOY
 (concerned)
 What's wrong?

BILL (O.S.)
 (filtered, on phone)
 With you, your mother and your
 aunties out of town, the State's
 losing a boatload of easy money.

JOHNNY-BOY
 Yankee's loss is Dixie's gain.

LAURA (O.S.)
 Johnny! Johnny-Boy!

He hears his name called and looks around.

JOHNNY-BOY
 Let me go, buddy, my cousin's here.

He switches off the phone. Laura walks fast up to Johnny-Boy
 and hugs him.

LAURA
 Please tell me there's been a
 miracle.

JOHNNY-BOY
 Sorry, cousin, no. But your mother
 has responded to playing cards and
 instant lottery tickets.

LAURA
 Figures she's trapped inside and
 trying to get out and get to a
 casino.

JOHNNY-BOY
 All life is a gamble.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ROOM 814 DAY

Johnny-Boy holds the door open for Laura and follows her in.

JOHNNY-BOY
 Welcome to the high rollers room.

LAURA
Hey aunties.

Laura kisses all the Sisters and then pecks her mother on the cheek.

LAURA (CONT'D)
Hey Mom.

AUNT TONIE
Do you want us to leave?

AUNT RAY
And you can be alone with your mother.

LAURA
No, but I expect the doctor to come in. You can stay if you want to stay and hear a lot of nothing.

CONNIE
Are you done work for the day?

LAURA
Yeah, Aunt Connie, I am.

CONNIE
Can we take you and the kids out to dinner?

LAURA
No, I'm going to stay here through the night.

A very attractive young Indian woman in a lab coat enters - DOCTOR PRASAD. Johnny-Boy takes notice.

DOCTOR PRASAD
Hello ma'am.

LAURA
Doctor Prasad, these are all my aunties. They've come from New Jersey to see my mother.

Johnny Boy steps up and shakes Doctor Prasad's hand.

JOHNNY-BOY
And I'm the chauffeur. John.
Laura's cousin.

The Doctor grabs the chart from the end of the bed and reads it over.

DOCTOR PRASAD

New Jersey, huh? Coincidentally I just watched all the seasons of "The Sopranos" on BluRay. Personally, I liked how the last episode ended. It just... ended.

JOHNNY-BOY

Bada bing!

DOCTOR PRASAD

Bada bing!

AUNT TONIE

What can you tell us?

DOCTOR PRASAD

Tests continue to rule out certain conditions such as a stroke. Frankly, and unofficially, that's what I think happened. We need to perform more tests. For now we only know to keep your Mizz Bevilacqua comfortable.

CONNIE

Our sister had a reaction to conversation and playing cards

DOCTOR PRASAD

That's not uncommon. But inconclusive.

AUNT RAY

No, it really stimulates her.

The Doctor puts the chart back and stands alongside Aunt Fenny. The Doctor caresses Aunt Fenny's face.

DOCTOR PRASAD

Miz Bevalacqua, we'll keep you strong to help you fight this.

The Doctor rakes back Aunt Fenny's salt and pepper hair.

DOCTOR PRASAD (CONT'D)

Is she older than y'all?

Suddenly, Fenny lets out a GROAN.

AUNT RAY

You see, Doctor, you stimulated her.

Fenny GROANS again.

CONNIE
 Okay, Fenicia, we heard you.
 (to the Doctor)
 She's actually our kid sis.

DOCTOR PRASAD
 Perhaps it's a good thing you
 sisters came to visit. Good to
 meet you, even under such
 circumstances.

AUNT RAY/CONNIE/AUNT TONIE
 Good to meet you too, Doctor
 Prasad.

The Doctor leaves.

AUNT TONIE
 We oughta go too.

JOHNNY-BOY
 Laura, would you like some company
 tonight? I'll take the girls to
 your mom's house and come back
 here.

LAURA
 Actually, I'd appreciate that.

CONNIE
 Why don't you just stay in and
 rest.

AUNT TONIE
 Will he be okay getting back here?

JOHNNY-BOY
 You mean without two drivers in the
 back seat, yeah I will.

EXT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/PARKING LOT DAY

It's dusk. They walk to the car.

CONNIE
 The Doctor has a nice bedside
 manner. Don't see that much.

I/E TOWN CAR SEDAN - TRAVELING DAY

They get inside.

AUNT TONIE

She was cute. For a Gully-Gully.

JOHNNY-BOY

For a Gully-Gully.

INT AUNT FENNY'S HOUSE/KITCHEN NIGHT

The Sisters sit around the table. Johnny Boy pours himself a glass of water.

CONNIE

Are you sure you wanna go back there?

JOHNNY-BOY

Am I supposed to sit around and watch you's molt?

I/E TOWN CAR SEDAN - TRAVELING NIGHT

Johnny-Boy drives around and tries to find a liquor store, which are called A. B. C. Stores in South Carolina.

EXT A. B. C. STORE NIGHT

Johnny-Boy pulls into a parking space out front.

INT A. B. C. STORE NIGHT

Johnny-Boy picks up two 500 ml cartons of red wine - a cabernet and another varietal, from the Rhone. He pays the CASHIER.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/RECEPTION NIGHT

Johnny Boy steps up to the security desk at the hospital and sees the same fellow from the previous night, Deek.

DEEK

Here to see Miz Bevilacqua?

JOHNNY-BOY

Yes, sir, thanks for remembering.

DEEK

An' where's them Mob Wives tonight?

JOHNNY-BOY

They're staying back at my Auntie's house. Plotting the deaths of the heads of the five families.

DEEK

They must be tired from running you ragged.

JOHNNY-BOY

Yes, sir.

DEEK

Go on up and when you see 'em tell 'em I said wish 'em luck.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ELEVATOR

As Johnny Boy steps off, Doctor Prasad steps on. He holds the door open.

JOHNNY-BOY

Hey Doctor.

DOCTOR PRASAD

Hello.

She does not recognize him.

JOHNNY-BOY

Um, We met you yesterday...

In spite his effort, the doors close.

JOHNNY-BOY (CONT'D)

Room eight fourteen...

Doctor Prasad hits the "Door Open" button and they do. The Doctor remembers.

DOCTOR PRASAD

The patient in eight fourteen is your aunt.

The doors close again. Johnny Boy pumps his fists but hits himself in the face with the bag of booze. KEVIN the nurse walks by and LAUGHS.

KEVIN

Need the emergency room?

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ROOM 814 NIGHT

Laura sits with Johnny-Boy on the cot in a corner of the room. He opens one of the casks of wine.

JOHNNY-BOY

Let me pour you a glass, or rather
a paper cup of wine.

He fills the cup and hands it to her.

LAURA

How'd you know I could use this?

JOHNNY-BOY

Bloodline.

Laura lifts the cup.

LAURA

Here's to it.

Laura moves from the cot to the bed where Aunt Fenny lies and takes her mother's hand.

LAURA (CONT'D)

I knew she was in bad shape.
That's why I told y'all to come
down. But I didn't think she'd be
like this. I don't know what to
do.

JOHNNY-BOY

One thing you can do is go home and
get some sleep in your own bed next
to your husband.

LAURA

I don't know, cousin, I don't know.

Doctor Prasad stops by.

DOCTOR PRASAD

Hey y'all. I'm making my rounds.

JOHNNY-BOY

Doctor, I'd like my cousin to go
home and get a good night's sleep.
What's the situation with my
auntie?

DOCTOR PRASAD

All I can say is this. If she was my mother, I'd go home and sleep in my own bed.

JOHNNY-BOY

I'll stay here and call you if there's anything.

DOCTOR PRASAD

(to Laura)

That sounds like a good deal to me.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/EIGHTH FLOOR HALLWAY

Doctor Prasad writes up reports at the nurse's station. She glances down towards Room 814. Laura and Johnny-Boy step out of the room.

LAURA

Don't hesitate to call me.

JOHNNY-BOY

Just try to get a good night's rest.

Laura hugs him and walks away.

JOHNNY-BOY (CONT'D)

Text me when you get home.

He goes back into room 814.

Doctor Prasad calls Camilla over.

DOCTOR PRASAD

I'll be in eight fourteen if there's a crisis.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ROOM 814

Doctor Prasad opens the door as Johnny Boy pours her a cup of wine.

DOCTOR PRASAD

Spare no expense, huh?

JOHNNY-BOY

Doctor, you can drive to Myrtle Beach in a Cadillac or a Chevy. You're still gonna get there.

The Doctor takes the wine, sits next to him and they toast.

DOCTOR PRASAD
Let's kick our Camaro into high
gear.

They drink. They laugh. They kiss. The only interruption
is GURGLING from Aunt Fenny.

JOHNNY-BOY
Don't make me pull the damn plug
woman!

DOCTOR PRASAD
I know that sound.

The Doctor adjusts the respirator pump. She pulls the face
mask off Aunt Fenny, blows into it and puts it back on the
patient, who then breathes easily.

DOCTOR PRASAD (CONT'D)
Your animal magnetism and cheap
wine may have saved your aunt.

She sits down next to him and takes her wine.

DOCTOR PRASAD (CONT'D)
Now where were we?

JOHNNY-BOY
On the road to Myrtle Beach.

They lie back on the cot and manage to get sort of half - but
sufficiently - naked. The Doctor MOANS very loudly a few
times.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/EIGHTH FLOOR HALLWAY

The MOANS reach the nurse's station.

CAMILLA
It's unfair I say. Us nurses just
can't compete against these women
doctors.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ROOM 814 DAY

Doctor Prasad pulls a blanket over Johnny-Boy, who lies there
and SNORES in the dim light of morning. The Doctor leaves.

JOHNNY BOY'S DREAM -

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ROOM 814

Whilst Aunt Fenny sleeps, her spirit climbs out of bed and sits in a chair next to the cot.

AUNT FENNY
Hey, Johnny-Boy.

He doesn't respond.

AUNT FENNY (CONT'D)
(shouts)
Johnny Boy!

He sits up suddenly but he is not surprised.

AUNT FENNY (CONT'D)
Your mickey mousing woke me out of my coma.

JOHNNY-BOY
Sorry. I forget that women, whatever they do, do it loud.

AUNT FENNY
No, I should apologize to you. About this sleeping beauty business. I didn't want you's to drive all the way down here to see me unconscious.

JOHNNY-BOY
Que sera, sera.

AUNT FENNY
Do you still smoke, Johnny-Boy?

JOHNNY-BOY
No. I quit a few years ago. Once I accepted that my wife and I were never getting back together.

AUNT FENNY
Good. I mean not smoking. It's not healthy.

JOHNNY-BOY
You don't have to tell me smoking isn't healthy. Remember, I work in a gas station.

AUNT FENNY

Be serious. I just don't want you to smoke and smoke and end up like me.

JOHNNY-BOY

Thanks Auntie.

AUNT FENNY

You know how I started smoking. Cigarettes were sold loose in the store by your grandmom and grandpop. Chesterfields. Three for a penny. I used to help myself. Helped myself to a terminal illness.

JOHNNY-BOY

C'mon, don't talk like that. I know you'll pull through.

AUNT FENNY

I don't think so, Johnny Boy. I don't think I'm going home from this hospital trip.

END DREAM

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ROOM 814 DAY

Johnny-Boy's smart phone RINGS and wakes him. The sun is up and shines harshly on Aunt Fenny, who lies in her bed.

INSERT - JOHNNY-BOY'S SMART PHONE

The display reads "Mom".

BACK TO SCENE

Johnny-Boy answers.

JOHNNY-BOY

G'morning.

CONNIE (O.S.)

(filtered, on phone)

C'mon. IHOP stops serving breakfast at eleven.

JOHNNY-BOY
 Mom, it's IHOP. They serve
 breakfast all day.

Johnny-Boy steps out of cot and realizes he's got to hike up his pants.

He pops into the bathroom and looks at his face in the mirror: lipstick all over. He scrubs it off with soap and water.

He returns to Aunt Fenny, gives her a kiss and leaves.

INT AUNT FENNY'S HOUSE/KITCHEN DAY

Aunt Ray sits at the table and drinks coffee. Aunt Tonie grabs the phone book and joins her. She uses the wall phone to make a flurry of calls, clearly to different governmental agencies.

AUNT TONIE
 How does an indigent senior qualify
 for free transportation? Indigent.
 Ya know. Paralegic. Free
 ambulance service?

She scratches down some notes. She checks another listing and dials another call.

AUNT TONIE (CONT'D)
 I've got a very sick senior who
 needs home care...
 (listens)
 No? The county doesn't offer that?
 What are you heathens?

Another listing. Another call.

AUNT TONIE (CONT'D)
 How much physical therapy do you
 cover?

Another call.

AUNT TONIE (CONT'D)
 When does someone qualify for
 hospice care? Yes, I know they
 have to be on the slow track to the
 finish line. You wanna be on the
 fast track, smart aleck?

Johnny-Boy returns and beelines for the coffee pot.

AUNT RAY
Sit, Johnny, sit.

Aunt Ray leaps up and gets the coffee for him. Aunt Tonie slams the phone - CLANG - and smacks the phone book on the table - CLUNK.

AUNT TONIE
Christopher Columbus, these people
down here!

JOHNNY-BOY
Antoinette, why do you think they
don't pay any taxes down south?
They don't offer any social
services.
(a beat)
Did you call the diocese?

AUNT TONIE
That's a good idea.

As Connie enters, she slips on a jacket. She sees the unkempt Johnny-Boy.

CONNIE
Cheese and crackers, you look
awful. I bet you didn't get any
sleep.

JOHNNY-BOY
Oh, I managed to get some.

AUNT RAY
It's nice that he wanted to spend
the night with his auntie. Give
his cousin a break.

AUNT TONIE
How is she?

JOHNNY-BOY
There's no change. And I don't
know if this really matters, but I
don't think she has the will to
fight.

CONNIE
How the hell would you know?

JOHNNY-BOY
She came to me in a dream last
night.

AUNT TONIE

Again?

AUNT RAY/CONNIE/AUNT TONIE

Did she give you a number?!?

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ROOM 814 DAY

The Sisters attend to their scratch off lottery tickets whilst Johnny-Boy reads the newspaper.

AUNT TONIE

What's our horoscopes?

Johnny checks the table of contents of the newspaper.

JOHNNY-BOY

This being the Bible Belt, I don't know if they'd publish any pagan prophesizin' like that. Oh, here 'tis.

AUNT RAY/CONNIE/AUNT TONIE

(each sister to another)

Check my card.

JOHNNY-BOY

(flips to horoscope)

Let's see. Hmmm, all your horoscopes are the same. "Today you will not win the lottery."

AUNT TONIE

Well that's wrong!

(waves ticket)

Fi' dollars on this.

JOHNNY-BOY

Woo hoo. Now you can send your great-grandchildren to college.

Aunt Fenny kicks her feet and MUMBLES.

AUNT TONIE

Yeah, sis, I finally won a little.

JOHNNY-BOY

Aunt Fenny, it was five dollars, not five million.

Johnny-Boy flips to the comics section.

JOHNNY-BOY (CONT'D)

You know, never have the funny pages been so unfunny. Makes one yearn for the good old days of "Cathy" or "For Better, For Worse" or even "Love Is...".

AUNT RAY

Ya know, there was a cartoon that your grandmom used to read every day. It was called "Policy Pete", and 'cause it was called "Policy Pete", your grandmom thought it gave clues for the number that was coming out that day.

JOHNNY-BOY

What's the connection between the name "Policy Pete" and the street number?

AUNT RAY

That's what we used to call 'em. Playing numbers was buying a policy. That was the do-re-mi. She would stare at that cartoon and look at the crooked lines and squiggly lines. If there was a real number in the drawing, she'd bet heavy on it.

CONNIE

Hey son, check what came out midday back home.

Johnny-Boy grabs his smart phone and goes online.

JOHNNY-BOY

You'll never believe it. You'll never believe what hit. Eight fourteen.

AUNT RAY/CONNIE/AUNT TONIE

No!

JOHNNY-BOY

No. Not even close. Four-oh-four.

CONNIE

I saved money.

AUNT TONIE

Wait. I think I might have won.

AUNT RAY

Who played your numbers?

AUNT TONIE

I would've been married forty-four years. No, forty-three. No, forty-five. Oh heck, I wouldn'ta had it.

AUNT RAY

Your grandmom was pretty shrewd.

JOHNNY-BOY

Not shrewd enough to not get caught by the police as a bookie.

CONNIE

That was one time and she was set up.

AUNT RAY

Your grandmother, she knew how they figured out the numbers. The street numbers.

JOHNNY-BOY

The policies.

AUNT RAY

Yeah. She knew the formula to figure out what the first two of the three numbers would be as the horse race results were announced during the day. So she'd take the money she collected from her customers and put it on the ten possible numbers. Then she'd hit. And hit big.

(a beat)

But she was very careful not to do that too often.

Sabina arrives.

SABINA

Good afternoon ladies. And gentleman. It's time for a bath.

JOHNNY-BOY

This is a good time to get lunch.

CONNIE

Tonie's the big winner. She can treat.

AUNT TONIE
Va' fa' 'Naboolah'! Big winner.

CONNIE
On our way, let's stop at Shana's
store and put in our numbers.

INT CONVENIENCE STORE DAY

The Sisters precede Johnny-Boy inside. Already, there are a
dozen CUSTOMERS on line.

NELLIE
Hello New Jersey.

CONNIE
Hey Kellie.

AUNT TONIE
It's Nellie.

CONNIE
(laughs)
Oh, Nellie. Sorry, my mind's on my
sick sister.

NELLIE
Ladies, I have to ask you to fill
out the play slips out yourself.

AUNT TONIE
You're kidding.

One Gentleman, HANK, an African-American fellow hands play
slips and a pencil to Aunt Tonie.

HANK
I'll help you, miss. You know,
Nellie's got to keep the line
moving.

JOHNNY-BOY
Why so busy?

NELLIE
It's Megamillions day.

Johnny-Boy grabs a few play slips.

JOHNNY-BOY
Mom, if you be quiet, I'll help you
fill these out.

AUNT TONIE

(to Hank)

Okay, I want you to play nine-
forty. And oh-sixty-three. And
eight-sixty-six.

HANK

Miss, please go slow.

JOHNNY-BOY

Yeah, Aunt Tonie, it's a friendly
game.

HANK

Now you want that nine-forty
straight?

The Customers on line SNICKER.

AUNT TONIE

Why can't they have more than one
person working here?

CONNIE

This is terrible.

AUNT RAY

Calm down. That's how the game is
played. You don't make up the
rules.

JOHNNY-BOY

I guess there aren't as many
compulsive gamblers in South
Carolina as up north.

INT TOWN CAR SEDAN DAY

As soon as they're back in the car, the Sisters attack their
instant lottery tickets. Johnny-Boy starts the car.

CONNIE

That's the worst thing that's ever
happened to me.

AUNT RAY

Oh, sis, stop exaggerating.

AUNT TONIE

They should have more people
working in there when it's busy
And they should learn how to key in
the numbers by hand.

BEGIN JOHNNY-BOY'S FANTASY

INT TOWN CAR SEDAN DAY

INSERT - DASHBOARD DISPLAY

Johnny Boy puts the transmission into Drive.

INSERT - ACCELERATOR

Johnny Boy stomps on the pedal.

EXT CONVENIENCE STORE DAY

The sedan smashes into the store's huge glass windows and explodes into flame.

END FANTASY

INT TOWN CAR SEDAN DAY

Connie smacks the arm of her pensive son.

CONNIE

We gonna get lunch or you gonna get
lost?

He backs the car up and pulls out of the lot.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ROOM 814 DAY

The Poker game is back in progress just under Aunt Fenny's nose. This time there are nickels but Johnny-Boy sits out the game.

AUNT RAY

It stimulates her, ya know.

INSERT - JOHNNY-BOY'S SMART PHONE

Via the internet, he scrolls through local want ads.

BACK TO SCENE

JOHNNY-BOY

Ladies, how much longer to plan to be here?

AUNT TONIE

We'll leave a little after Laura gets here. I have all this information to give her.

JOHNNY-BOY

No, I mean stay here in South Carolina. When do you want to go back home?

CONNIE

What's today? Sunday?

AUNT TONIE

"Stoo-nahd!" It's Friday. What are you saying Sunday for?

CONNIE

It feels like Sunday.

AUNT RAY

Why? Do you see a priest?

CONNIE

It just feels like Sunday.

JOHNNY-BOY

Regardless of how it feels, it's only Friday. When do you want to head home?

AUNT RAY

What if Fenny wakes up?

JOHNNY-BOY

Then let's say, we'll leave on Sunday, but not early, in case something happens.

CONNIE

Why don't we just leave early.

JOHNNY-BOY

Because I don't want to get up at dawn.

AUNT RAY

That sounds good to me. Unless
Fenny wakes up.

(pats Fenny's face)

Hear that. So wake up.

AUNT TONIE

You're the driver.

JOHNNY-BOY

I'm the driver, in the front seat.

Johnny Boy throws his smart phone on the cot, leans back in his chair and nods off as the Poker game continues.

JOHNNY-BOY'S DREAM -

INT TALK SHOW SET/STUDIO AUDIENCE DAY

Faces. Smiles. CHEERS and APPLAUSE.

MALE ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

(piercingly loud)

Welcome back to that talk show
hosted by everyone's favorite
untalented harridan.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ROOM 814 DAY

The Announcer's voice wakes Johnny-Boy. He looks at the TV.

INSERT - TELEVISION

INT TALK SHOW SET

The APPLAUSE continues as the host, Ellen, wiggles like an epileptic, oblivious to the rhythm of her rock'n'roll FANFARE. Ellen shimmies into her chair. Aunt Fenny is her guest.

ELLEN

I want to welcome my very special
guest, Fenicia... Bevilacqua. You
like to be called Fenny, right?

AUNT FENNY

Yes. Thank you so much for having
me on. Can I say a few things?

ELLEN

Sure, Fenny, please.

AUNT FENNY

I wish you and your, uh, wife all the luck in the world. And I want to thank my sisters for coming down to visit me. I love you all. And I want to especially thank my favorite nephew Johnny for driving my sisters down here from New Jersey so they could see me.

ELLEN

Even though he's using your hospital room as a lover's lane?

AUNT FENNY

Yes even though he's using my hospital room to shack up with my Gully-Gully lady doctor. He's still my favorite.

Johnny Boy's smart phone RINGS offscreen

END DREAM

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ROOM 814 DAY

CONNIE

Son! Your phone.

Johnny wakes. He looks up at the TV.

JOHNNY-BOY'S - POV

The television is off.

BACK TO SCENE

Johnny-Boy reaches for his smart phone.

JOHNNY-BOY

So much for Aunt Fenny's TV career.

CONNIE

Huh?

INSERT - JOHNNY-BOY'S SMART PHONE

It shows he's received a picture message from Kirby. He taps the screen to open it.

A photo appears: dark and blurry but clearly the full frontal nude of Veely's torso.

BACK TO SCENE

Without a face, Johnny-Boy doesn't recognize her.

JOHNNY-BOY

Geez!

CONNIE

Hey, watch your mouth.

AUNT RAY

Who's calling.

JOHNNY-BOY

It's just Kirby being stupid.

CONNIE

Yeah, well, like father, like son.

Johnny Boy lopes out of the room.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/LOUNGE

Johnny-Boy finds a lonesome corner and calls Kirby.

KIRBY (O.S.)

(filtered, on phone)
Hey dad.

JOHNNY-BOY

If you're trying to remind your dad
of what a woman looks like...

KIRBY (O.S.)

(filtered, on phone)
No, just reminding you of that rule
of arithmetic to show your work.

JOHNNY-BOY

Yeah, nice work if you can get it.

KIRBY (O.S.)

(filtered, on phone)
I have a newfound respect for you.

JOHNNY-BOY

Are the gasoline fumes getting to you?

KIRBY (O.S.)

(filtered, on phone)

That little coed you tutor in Trigonometry every week? She came by the gas station with an extra credit assignment.

JOHNNY-BOY

Veely?

KIRBY (O.S.)

(filtered, on phone)

Learn a theorem from your son. It's easier to just do her homework for her than teach her. You get to the sex portion of the evening a lot sooner.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/HALLWAY

Laura step off the elevator.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/LOUNGE

JOHNNY-BOY

Son, I'm hanging up on you now not because I want to but because I have to.

KIRBY (O.S.)

(filtered, on phone)

Later, dad.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/HALLWAY

Johnny-Boy catches up with Laura.

JOHNNY-BOY

Hey cuz.

LAURA

How are you?

They walk through the many swinging doors.

JOHNNY-BOY

Once I realize that I can't win as far as your aunts are concerned, it's fine.

(a beat)

We're going to leave late in the morning on Sunday and head back home.

LAURA

Okay. I'll make sure to come over before you leave.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ROOM 814

Laura and Johnny-Boy find the Sisters in an argument around Aunt Fenny. They wave their cards in front of each other.

AUNT RAY

I have a natural straight.

CONNIE

I had five aces.

AUNT TONIE

There was nothing wild.

JOHNNY-BOY

As you can see, cuz, they're having a friendly game of cards.

LAURA

I'm no doctor, but if this hasn't woke my mom, ain't nothing will.

Laura kisses her the Sisters. Aunt Tonie moves the tray so that Laura can sit next to her mother.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Johnny-Boy says y'all will head back up north on Sunday.

AUNT RAY

Unless your mom wakes up.

AUNT TONIE

Hey kid, here's our plan for tomorrow. Let your aunties cook an early dinner at your mom's house so that you and her family can all get together with us.

CONNIE

Yeah, we haven't spent any time together with your kids.

LAURA

That sounds great.

JOHNNY-BOY

And I'll stay over again her tonight.

LAURA

That's kind of you.

CONNIE

You sure you want to do that?

AUNT TONIE

Yeah. Let him do it if he wants. Then Laura will get another night's rest.

LAURA

Sure.

JOHNNY-BOY

You stay here until I drive the ladies out to the house and come back. Oh cuz...

(winks at Laura)

I might have to get gas before after I drop them off.

LAURA

Oh yeah, get gas.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/RECEPTION DAY

On the way out, Connie taps Deek on the shoulder.

CONNIE

We ain't been lucky with the place Shana told us to play numbers at. You know some place we can play numbers where we'll win?

DEEK

Well I heard the fella there hit the jackpot last night.

JOHNNY-BOY

He's joshing you all. Let's go.

INT A. B. C. STORE NIGHT

Johnny-Boy selects three 500 ml cartons of wine.

JOHNNY-BOY

One for me. One for her. And one
for her.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ROOM 814 NIGHT

Laura holds Aunt Fenny's limp hand and sips red wine from a
juice glass.

LAURA

This sure makes it easier.

JOHNNY-BOY

I thought to bring some glasses
from the house.

LAURA

Oh yeah, but I meant the wine. The
relief for grief.

They lift their glasses in a toast.

JOHNNY-BOY

Cuz, I want to talk to you about
something, an idea I have.

LAURA

Sure.

JOHNNY-BOY

I've been looking at the "help
wanted" ads on line for around
here. Believe it or not, there are
jobs in South Carolina for somebody
with my qualifications.

LAURA

Heck, cuz, we ain't all cotton
picking and corn dogs down here.

JOHNNY-BOY

Things are tough all over.

LAURA

Let me ask, would you keep up the
house while you're there?

JOHNNY-BOY

Yeah.

LAURA

Would you help me take care of mom
if... when she returns home?

JOHNNY-BOY

Of course.

LAURA

I need to talk it over with my
husband. But I won't do anything
with mom's house while she's
still...

JOHNNY-BOY

Still with us.

LAURA

Yeah. You might as well use it.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ROOM 814 LATER

Whilst Johnny-Boy sleeps on the cot, Doctor Prasad kisses him
on the mouth.

JOHNNY-BOY

(mumbles)

Leave me alone.

Doctor Prasad kisses him again.

DOCTOR PRASAD

C'mon lover boy. Wake up.

He opens his eye.

JOHNNY-BOY

Oh... hey.

He hugs her and they kiss passionately. She climbs onto the
cot with him.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ROOM 814 LATER

The Doctor dresses into her scrubs and smock.

JOHNNY-BOY

We're headed back home tomorrow.
But I talked to my cousin about
moving into my aunt's house and
looking for a job down here.

DOCTOR PRASAD

You're a good lay for a guy twice
my age. But hey...

JOHNNY-BOY

All right, Doctor, I don't need an
x-ray to know the rest of the
prognosis.

DOCTOR PRASAD

Don't act like your heart's broken.
Or if it is, that I broke it.

JOHNNY-BOY

Maybe you could've fixed it.

DOCTOR PRASAD

I'll write you a prescription.

She kisses him again.

DOCTOR PRASAD (CONT'D)

Take these as needed. For one more
day.

JOHNNY-BOY

Do this much. Tomorrow, we're
having a big dinner at my aunt's
house. Will you join us?

DOCTOR PRASAD

Okay.

JOHNNY-BOY

I could use a little more medicine.

She kisses him and goes to the door. The light cuts across
Johnny-Boy's face.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/HALLWAY NIGHT

Camilla and Kevin see Doctor Prasad leave Room 814.

CAMILLA

Miss high yella there ain't getting
away with all that jazz.

KEVIN

What are you going to do?

CAMILLA

You wait. You'll see. What comes
around, goes around.

KEVIN

Isn't it, what goes around, comes around.

CAMILLA

You wait. You'll see.

INT AUNT FENNY'S HOUSE/KITCHEN DAY

Johnny-Boy sits down at the table where the Sisters are all dressed and waiting with their handbags. Aunt Ray puts a cup of coffee in his hand.

CONNIE

Don't think you're gonna relax.

AUNT TONIE

You got to take us food shopping at the Piggly-Wiggly.

EXT "PIGGLY-WIGGLY" SUPERMARKET DAY

Behind the Sisters, Johnny-Boy pushes a shopping cart full of bags through the parking lot.

EXT AUNT FENNY'S HOUSE/BACKYARD DAY

Johnny-Boy sprawls out on a chaise longue with a beer in his hand. He is right under the kitchen window.

AUNT TONIE

(from the window)

Hey Johnny-Boy! I put raisins in the meatballs, just like you like them.

Johnny-Boy wags his head and then takes a long drink of beer.

INT AUNT FENNY'S HOUSE/KITCHEN DAY

The Sisters prepare different dishes for dinner. Aunt Tonie make meatballs: she rolls them and fries them up in a pan.

Aunt Ray makes the gravy. She covers the bottom of a big dutch oven pot with olive oil. She strains canned tomatoes through a sieve and slices them up. She tosses freshly chopped garlic into the dutch oven. It SIZZLES in the hot oil. She spoons tomato paste into pot and stirs it up. Finally she adds the sliced up canned tomatoes.

Connie makes some fettucini from scratch. She rolls out thin sheets of dough and slices them up with a steak knife into long ribbons.

EXT AUNT FENNY'S HOUSE/BACKYARD

Johnny gets a text.

INSERT - MESSAGE ON SMART PHONE

Doctor Prasad writes: "C U l8r".

BACK TO SCENE

JOHNNY-BOY

Huh? Oh...

He leaps from the chaise.

INT AUNT FENNY'S HOUSE/KITCHEN

JOHNNY-BOY

I forgot. Set another place at the table please.

CONNIE

For who?

JOHNNY-BOY

For whom?

AUNT TONIE

Yeah, for who?

JOHNNY-BOY

I invited Doctor Prasad over.

AUNT RAY

You're making friends already, Johnny-Boy, and you haven't even moved in.

AUNT TONIE

You know that was nice of your cousin to go along with your idea.

CONNIE

"Freghetta"! You bet he'll foul it up.

JOHNNY-BOY

Thanks for the vote of confidence,
mom.

CONNIE

You always do.

Aunt Tonie grabs the wall phone and rings up Laura.

AUNT TONIE

Hey sweetheart. Call us when
you're about fifteen minutes away,
so we can put the macaroni on to
boil. Thanks. Bye.

She joins Aunt Ray as she sorts out some store-bought
ravioli.

Johnny-Boy grabs a bottle of Chianti, uncorks it and pours
the wine into a pitcher. He slices up a few peaches and
drops them into the wine.

JOHNNY-BOY

And with that splashdown our Jersey
ginker-fest is complete!

INT AUNT FENNY'S HOUSE/DINING ROOM

He puts the pitcher on the table, which is all set and goes
outside.

INT AUNT FENNY'S HOUSE/KITCHEN LATER

The Sisters are again busy with stacks of instant tickets.

AUNT RAY

(suddenly)

Oh, it's Saturday. Connie, get on
the phone and see if Mister Singh
will play some in some numbers.

CONNIE

Oh yeah!

EXT AUNT FENNY'S HOUSE/BACKYARD

Johnny-Boy is on the chaise longue under the kitchen window
with another beer.

CONNIE (O.S.)
 Hey, Mister Singh, will you put in
 some numbers for us? Okay thanks.
 Yeah, all of them fifty cent
 straight and box. Ready? Okay.
 One-forty.

JOHNNY-BOY
 This address.

CONNIE (O.S.)
 Eight-fourteen.

JOHNNY-BOY
 Aunt Fenny's hospital room.

CONNIE (O.S.)
 Nine-twenty.

JOHNNY-BOY
 Grandmom and grandpop's house
 number.

CONNIE (O.S.)
 Three-twenty-six.

JOHNNY-BOY
 Dad's death anniversary.

CONNIE (O.S.)
 Two-two-seven.

JOHNNY-BOY
 Dad's birthday.

CONNIE (O.S.)
 Oh-eighty-five.

JOHNNY-BOY
 Mom's address.

CONNIE (O.S.)
 Eight hundred.

JOHNNY-BOY
 The year of Charlemagne's
 coronation?

AUNT TONIE (O.S.)
 What number is that?

AUNT RAY (O.S.)
 That's my license plate number.

JOHNNY-BOY

Oh.

INT AUNT FENNY'S HOUSE/DINING ROOM

Laura, her husband, HERBIE, and their "tween" daughters, HAYLEY and LIV, sit around the table. Herbie is at the head.

Aunt Ray, Connie and Aunt Tonie parade in from the kitchen with platters of fettucini, ravioli and meatballs.

HAYLEY/LIV

(shout)

Mangia! Mangia!

Johnny-Boy pours Herbie a glass of wine, and scoops out peaches with a wooden spoon.

JOHNNY-BOY

Saluté.

LAURA

Go easy with that. He's got to drive home.

HERBIE

If you went easy for a change...

The Sisters serve out the food.

AUNT RAY

Don't worry. He'll have plenty to eat and that'll soak up the wine.

Johnny-Boy fills Laura's wine glass. The doorbell RINGS. He nearly drops the pitcher and jogs off.

CONNIE

I haven't seen him move that fast in twenty years.

AUNT RAY

Will our mystery guest sign in please.

I/E AUNT FENNY'S HOUSE/FRONT DOOR DAY

Johnny-Boy finds Doctor Prasad waits on the porch with a cake box. He lets her in.

DOCTOR PRASAD
I figured if I came a little late,
it would be less awkward.

JOHNNY-BOY
Punctuality, unlike sanity, is
valued in this family; however, you
may be right.

He takes the box and escorts her into...

INT AUNT FENNY'S HOUSE/DINING ROOM DAY

JOHNNY-BOY
I think everybody knows Doctor
Prasad.

DOCTOR PRASAD
Please, everyone, call me by my
nickname, Jo.

Aunt Ray grabs the box.

AUNT RAY
I'll take the cake.

There's no open chair next to Johnny-Boy, so Connie motions
for Doctor Prasad to sit next to her, sort of in the corner.

AUNT TONIE
By coincidence, my first husband's
name was Joe.

CONNIE
You better play his birthday.

JOHNNY-BOY
And his death day.

AUNT RAY
(returns to table)
And your old address on Fulton
Street.

Laura pours herself another glass of wine.

JOHNNY-BOY
Let me get that, cousin.

LAURA
No, no, I got it.

She takes a drink and chews on a peach.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Doctor - Jo - since you're here,
it's time I say what's got to be
said.

(stares daggers at Johnny-
Boy)

I think what y'all were up to in my
mother's hospital room was
disgusting. I never want you to
see my mother again. You can
forget about living here. Thank
God you're leaving tomorrow 'cause
I wouldn't want to throw my aunties
out of my mother's house.

JOHNNY-BOY

Cousin...

LAURA

(sputters)

You couldn't possibly give me any
excuse for... for...

(a beat)

...for what you did in front of my
mother.

HAYLEY

Ma'am, I think Grandmom called it
"shacking up."

HERBIE

You be quiet, and be a lady.

HAYLEY

Yes, sir.

Laura turns to Doctor Prasad.

LAURA

And as for you...

(a beat)

...Jo, I will do everything I can
to ruin you. Your black bottom
will be back in Bombay, Doctor!
Bombay! So fast, it'll turn white.

JOHNNY-BOY

Actually, for the record, it's kind
of tan. He bottom. It's tan.

LAURA

Then it'll be black and blue from
me kicking it.

LIV
Ma'am, it's called Mumbai now.

LAURA
What?!

LIV
Bombay. They call it "Mumbai" now.

LAURA
Y'all wanna go with her?!

Herbie takes Laura by the arm.

HERBIE
I think you made your point. Why
don't we simply leave?

Doctor Prasad stands up.

DOCTOR PRASAD
You people. Y'all think... y'all
pretend that life and death and sex
and love, these things exist in
different realms.

LAURA
There are children present.

DOCTOR PRASAD
Children of all ages.

HERBIE
Girls, let's go. You can speak to
your aunts tomorrow.

He shepherds Hayley and Liv out of the room.

DOCTOR PRASAD
Maybe it's the living spirit of
your mother that guided us
together? Or seeing her finite
fragility, why wouldn't we seize a
few moments of pleasure?

JOHNNY-BOY
Madonn'!

AUNT TONIE
What the heck did she just say?

LAURA
Oh go rub a Buddha's belly.

DOCTOR PRASAD

And what if we got pregnant, would that make our child corrupt in some way?

Connie starts to cry.

CONNIE

Oh God forbid!

DOCTOR PRASAD

Or would we always think she'd have a guardian spirit looking over her? Capeesh?

LAURA

Leave the keys with the neighbor.

The front door SLAMS. Doctor Prasad grabs a glass of wine and gulps it down. She grabs Laura's glass and gulps it down. She grabs Herbie's glass and does the same.

AUNT TONIE

After all we did for her, damn right she's not throwing us out of my sister's house!

JOHNNY-BOY

What did you do for her?

AUNT TONIE

She knows what we did for her.

She waves her hands over all the food on the table.

AUNT RAY

Well, I'm still hungry.

She piles her plate high with ravioli. She grabs Doctor Prasad's plate and fills it.

AUNT RAY (CONT'D)

And if you're eating for two...

JOHNNY-BOY

(a non sequitur)

All on account of hash.

He gets up and goes out into the backyard. Connie nudges Doctor Prasad on the shoulder. She points her thumb at Johnny-Boy. Doctor Prasad follows.

EXT AUNT FENNY'S HOUSE/BACKYARD

Doctor Prasad sits next to Johnny-Boy on the chaise.

JOHNNY-BOY
You're just kinda kidding about
that last part right?

DOCTOR PRASAD
That's all I'd need, and with a man
twice my age. But I needed to
drive the point home.

JOHNNY-BOY
Outta the park. Are you sure you
don't wanna like me? 'Cause you'd
fit right into this family.

She runs her fingers over his face. He grabs her hand.

DOCTOR PRASAD
Not to tight. I make my living
with my hands.

Suddenly CRIES and WAILS come from inside the house,
offscreen.

They leap up and rush inside.

INT AUNT FENNY'S HOUSE/DINING ROOM DAY

The Sisters are all LAUGHS, piercing, crazy laughs so hard
they weep.

JOHNNY-BOY
Oh my God, I thought you were
crying in here.

CONNIE
This reminded us of the time when
we were kids and Tonie and Ray were
fighting over who was gonna get the
first piece of a lemon meringue
pie.

DOCTOR PRASAD
I thought there was bad news about
Miz Bevilacqua.

The Sisters continue to LAUGH, almost hysterically and out of
breath.

AUNT TONIE

So Pop grabbed the pie and threw it
at Ray.

Connie jumps up and tries to run off with crossed legs.

CONNIE

I have to go to the bathroom.

Aunt Tonie follows.

AUNT TONIE

Me too!

JOHNNY-BOY

You know the word "PIE" is like
three-one-nine if you turn it
around.

Connie runs back to the table and snatches Johnny-Boy's smart
phone.

CONNIE (O.S.)

Hello... Mister Singh...

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/RECEPTION NIGHT

Johnny-Boy is alone as he stops at the security desk.

DEEK

Hey lucky, you here real late
tonight. I didn't think the
Doctor's on duty.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/HALLWAY

Camilla sees Johnny-Boy and walks fast from the Nurse's
Station to bar his way.

CAMILLA

You can't go in there.

JOHNNY-BOY

Deek didn't stop me at the security
desk. Why should I let anybody
stop me now?

CAMILLA

I'm security enough for you, fool.

JOHNNY-BOY

Is my cousin in there?

CAMILLA

No, and you ain't gonna be in there
neither.

JOHNNY-BOY

Look, please, we're leaving
tomorrow to head back to New
Jersey.

CAMILLA

Can't be soon enough.

JOHNNY-BOY

I just want to say so long to my
Auntie.

CAMILLA

You all bes' be careful. Mizz
Bevilacqua likely to come to with
time enough to tell you "Good
riddance."

She opens the door for him.

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ROOM 814

Johnny-Boy leans over Aunt Fenny and kisses her on the cheek.
He turns to leave.

BEGIN JOHNNY-BOY'S FANTASY

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ROOM 814 DAY

Aunt Fenny sits in a chair. She is free of the tubes but
still wears her gown. She holds an old-fashioned cigarette
purse.

AUNT FENNY

You really fouled up big time for
some small kicks, Johnny-Boy.

JOHNNY-BOY

You're telling me.

He sits on the cot next to Aunt Fenny as she lights up a
cigarette.

JOHNNY-BOY (CONT'D)

This is a hospital. You can't
smoke.

AUNT FENNY

When a prisoner is gonna be executed, they offer him a last cigarette don't they? I'm no better than a prisoner?

JOHNNY-BOY

I see your point.

AUNT FENNY

Go back up north, kiddo. Things'll work out for the best. Somehow, we always have just the right amount of luck in our lives, never big, but just enough. Just enough.

END FANTASY

INT PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL/ROOM 814 NIGHT

Johnny-Boy put his hand on the doorknob. From the bed, Aunt Fenny stirs. She comes to and looks to her left, to an empty chair.

AUNT FENNY

Thanks, Ellen. Thanks for having me on your show. It's been lots of fun. Lots of fun.
(faintly)
Lots of fun.

She falls unconscious again.

Camilla opens the door.

CAMILLA

You smoking in here?

JOHNNY-BOY

I'm not.

CAMILLA

All right, Romeo, time to go. And don't you never tell nobody I let you in.

EXT "MCDONALD'S" PARKING LOT DAY

Johnny Boy and the Sisters carry large coffees to the car.

I/E TOWN CAR SEDAN DAY

They all get in simultaneously. Connie slides into the front passenger seat.

CONNIE

Hey son, did you get any Monopoly game pieces?

JOHNNY-BOY

Yeah, but I can't tell if they're winners.

AUNT RAY

Maybe he'll be lucky 'cause we're down south.

JOHNNY-BOY

'Cause I've had so much luck so far.

He takes a swig from his large coffee. Connie reaches over and peels the Monopoly game piece from his styrofoam cup.

JOHNNY-BOY (CONT'D)

Hey!

He yanks the cup away from her. Something in front of the parked car catches his eye.

JOHNNY-BOY'S POV - FRONT OF THE CAR

The spectres of Mom and Pop stand at the bumper. Aunt Fenny walks over and stands between them. She looks healthy and wears a light green blouse and yellow slacks. She hands Mom and Pop instant lottery tickets.

BACK TO SCENE

Johnny Boy slips his coffee into a cup holder. He inserts the key into the ignition but doesn't start the car. Connie looks at him.

CONNIE

Whadda ya waitin' for? Christmas?

AUNT TONIE

He's waiting for his Gully-Gully "goo-mahd" to call.

His smart phone does indeed RING.

INSERT - JOHNNY-BOY'S SMART PHONE

Doctor Prasad's name comes up.

BACK TO SCENE

Johnny-Boy hands the smart phone to Connie.

JOHNNY-BOY
You answer it.

CONNIE
Hello. This is his mother. What
do you want?
(listens)
Oh no...

Connie starts to WAIL.

CONNIE (CONT'D)
She didn't make it.

Johnny-Boy takes his smart phone. Aunt Tonie and Aunt Ray start to weep.

JOHNNY-BOY
(into phone)
Did someone call my cousin? You
did. Thanks. We're going to come
over there. Yeah, brace for
impact.

EXT CEMETARY DAY

Connie, Aunt Ray and Aunt Tonie kneel alongside the fresh pile of dirt over Aunt Fenny's grave. Each Sister stands and touches the headstone, which reads "Bevilacqua". Johnny-Boy plants a Confederate flag next to it.

AUNT RAY
She's with mom and pop now.

AUNT TONIE
Bring us some luck, sis.

CONNIE
Yeah, make that four-eightteen hit
for us.

AUNT TONIE
Eight-fourteen!

CONNIE
I mean, eight-fourteen.

JOHNNY-BOY
All right freedom riders, the bus
is ready to head back to Jersey.

They walk to the car.

AUNT RAY/CONNIE/AUNT TONIE
But we've got time to get some
lottery tickets?

JOHNNY-BOY
As long as it takes to fill the gas
tank.

I/E GAS STATION/CONVENIENCE STORE DAY

Johnny-Boy fills the car with gas. He CLICKS out those last few drops. He hooks the nozzle back on the pump, puts on the filler tube cap and slaps the little door shut. He walks to the Convenience Store and leans inside.

The Sisters stand at counter as the Cashier, a young Indian man, RAJ, tries to keep up.

JOHNNY-BOY (CONT'D)
Can we please get going!

AUNT TONIE
I want eight-fourteen, straight and boxed for fifty cents. I want oh-sixty-six, straight and box for fifty cents. I want one-forty-four, straight and box for fifty cents.

CONNIE
(to Johnny-Boy)
You see, this nice fellow will key in our numbers.

RAJ
I'm sorry, ma'am, I cannot play that one-forty-four boxed. I have to play what we call "six-way."

AUNT TONIE
Play it six-way then.

I/E TOWN CAR SEDAN - TRAVELING DAY

North on I-95. The reflection of the Sombrero Tower of South Of the Border sweeps across the front window.

JOHNNY-BOY'S POV - REARVIEW MIRROR

The Sombrero Tower passes across the mirror and recedes down under the horizon.

BACK TO SCENE

Johnny-Boy glances from the rearview mirror to the front of the car.

JOHNNY-BOY (V.O.)

Somebody once said, "Look at life through the windshield, not the rear-view mirror." But geez, does anybody have the will power to altogether avoid looking into that rearview mirror? Sometimes we should. There can be a lot to laugh about back there.

(a beat)

I didn't leave a child in South Carolina. If I did, I swear he - or she - would never have to fill in for dad's shift pumping gas. 'Cause in South Carolina, you pump your own.

(a beat)

Oh, as far as eight fourteen goes, it still hasn't hit above or below the Mason Dixon line.

INSERT - ACCELERATOR

Johnny-Boy presses slightly down on the pedal.

BACK TO SCENE

The car speeds up I-95.

CONNIE (O.S.)

You know we never played oh-ninety-five?

The End.