

# **A LITTLE FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD**

an original screenplay by

**Nathan Shelton**

Nathan Shelton

Arcane Productions  
Chicago, IL 60647  
npatrickshelton@gmail.com  
www.nathanshelton.com

1 INT. CONVENIENT STORE - DAY 1

A coin scratches away the silver coating of a LOTTERY TICKET.  
No matches.

DAVID stares at the losing ticket and sighs.

DAVID  
Par for the course.

2 EXT. CONVENIENT STORE - DAY 2

David steps out of the store into the bright sunlight,  
juggling a large soft drink and various snacks.

He quickly steps off the curb and peers around the corner.

Across the lot, in the passenger seat of his car, sits  
LARAMIE; emphatically rocking some face melting air drums on  
the dashboard.

David smiles.

3 INT. DAVID'S CAR - CONVENIENT STORE PARKING LOT - DAY 3

The door opens and David practically falls into the car.  
Candy and chip packages erupt from his overflowing arms.

LARAMIE  
Jesus, Davey. Stocking up for  
judgment day?

DAVID  
I didn't know what we may want-

LARAMIE  
I told you I didn't want anything.

DAVID  
Well. Variety is the spice of life.

LARAMIE  
Apparently mango habanero chili cheese  
combo is the spice of life.

DAVID  
It's new. It called to me.

LARAMIE  
Yeah, well you've already had to  
stop to pee three times on this little  
excursion. Are you trying to hit  
every single bathroom from here to  
the lake?

DAVID

I know. I know. I got the bladder  
of an infant.

LARAMIE

And I must be a goddamn camel. I  
can't believe I haven't had to go  
yet. How long have we been driving  
again? Seems like it's taking for  
fuckin' ever.

DAVID

Okay. You ready to go.

He starts the car.

LARAMIE

I'm not criticizing. But since you  
won't let me drive, I reserve the  
right to bust your balls a little.

David stares ahead. Something is weighing on him.

4 EXT. HIGHWAY - CONVENIENT STORE PARKING LOT - DAY 4

The car sputters out onto the dusty highway.

LARAMIE (O.S.)

At least the conversation is  
stimulating. Yeesh.

5 INT. DAVID'S CAR - DRIVING DOWN HIGHWAY - DAY 5

The two men are caught in an overly long and awkward silence.  
Laramie fidgets.

He is about to say something to David, but gives up before  
starting. He glances over the seat.

IN THE BACK SEAT, secured by the seat belt is a large wooden  
box.

Laramie eyes the box suspiciously.

DAVID

Laramie.

Laramie sits up quickly.

LARAMIE

Whaaaaaaa?

DAVID

I told you. No. You promised you  
wouldn't peak.

LARAMIE

But it's so mysterious. C'mon, man.

DAVID

No.

LARAMIE

All right. Jesus.

He pouts, looking out the window.

Silence.

DAVID

I'm sorry, man. But- it's important.  
To me. Okay?

LARAMIE

I said all right, dude. I won't try  
to peek. I can wait till the lake.

He notices the lottery ticket crumpled among the snacks.

LARAMIE (CONT'D)

Ah, still playing the lottery, eh?

DAVID

Man's gotta have hope.

LARAMIE

Yeah. That's true, man. 'tis true.  
One of these days, brother.

David swallows hard.

DAVID

I'm really glad you were able to  
join me for the ride up.

LARAMIE

Of course! Like I'm gonna miss  
hitting the spot with you. Sucks we  
couldn't get Jen and Ethan to come  
out too.

David glances over at his friend.

LARAMIE (CONT'D)

They "just couldn't make it?"

DAVID

Yeah.

LARAMIE

Fucking stupid. They loved coming  
out here just as much as we did.

(MORE)

LARAMIE (CONT'D)

I find it hard to believe that they  
couldn't make time to-

DAVID

They have a lot going on, Laramie.

LARAMIE

*Oh okay.*

DAVID

You hadn't talked to them in a while,  
man. How the hell would you know?

LARAMIE

Whoa, tiger. It would've been great  
to get the whole college gang back  
together is all. I'm not knockin'  
this whole buddy comedy thing that's  
happening though. All good. Take  
it easy.

DAVID

Sorry.

Silence

DAVID (CONT'D)

It's just - it's not as easy for  
everyone, you know. You always had  
this cavalier, nothing-ever-bothers-  
me, I-can-withstand-any-storm kinda  
vibe.

LARAMIE

Joie de vivre.

DAVID

Yeah.

He smiles.

DAVID (CONT'D)

That. And, well... When we were  
all together you'd rub off on all of  
us-

LARAMIE

Only when you guys were sleeping.

DAVID

(laughs)

You were the really the one who was  
always the life force of the group.

LARAMIE

Even more reason to come out here  
with us and relive some glory days!

DAVID

People grow up and move on, Laramie.  
Sometimes- Well, sometimes it's  
easier to remember things the way  
they were and not try to drag things  
out, I guess.

LARAMIE

You mean like you are dragging out  
this goddamn road trip! I mean  
seriously, Dave. We coulda taken 44  
and made it up in half the time.  
You're takin' the long way and you  
knows it.

DAVID

Yeah. Well. I'm just enjoying the  
ride.

LARAMIE

Coulda' fooled me.

David shoots him a look.

LARAMIE (CONT'D)

Don't look at me like that. You are  
one morose asshole. Here we are,  
takin' the long way to a place that  
holds magical significance for both  
of us, and are we listing to tunes?  
Are we laughing and reminiscing?  
Are we having *any fun* at all? No.  
You've barely made eye contact with  
me since I got in the damn car. We  
just sit here in silence like a couple  
of puds. *What have we become?!*

DAVID

I'm sorry.

LARAMIE

I'm *bored*.

DAVID

I just thought we might be able to  
talk a little. Until we get there.

LARAMIE

Great! Let's do that! What's on  
your mind?

David is at a loss for words.

LARAMIE (CONT'D)

Okay. Sports and recreation?  
Entertainment? Politics? Sex and  
relationships? Shoot.

DAVID

I- I don't really know what to- you  
made it weird.

LARAMIE

I MADE IT WEIRD?!

They laugh.

DAVID

You're right, man. I'm sorry. I've  
been going through a lot lately. I  
needed to take you up to the lake  
this weekend. It's been too long.

LARAMIE

I'll say. I don't remember the last  
time we came up.

DAVID

Ten years ago. Holy shit, I'm old.

LARAMIE

We're old!

DAVID

That was right after you first got  
diagnosed remember?

LARAMIE

Shit. Yeah. You, me, Jen... And  
Bobbie Wilson, of all people.

DAVID

I hate that fuckin' guy.

LARAMIE

He's the worst.

DAVID

But he wanted to tag along and make  
sure you were all right, I guess.

LARAMIE

Bullshit. He just wanted to make  
himself a part of it in case...

DAVID

He's in county now anyway. Jokes on  
him.

Laramie is lost in thought.

LARAMIE

Yeah.

Laramie looks over the back seat again.

IN THE BACK SEAT, the box sits. Taunting.

He turns back and sits up straight.

LARAMIE (CONT'D)

You know, Davey. I don't think I actually said thanks for that trip. I had it rough there when I heard about the cancer and... you know my family. Man. But even though we hadn't really talked in a few, back then, you showed up and it was like not a day had gone by. That weekend made me stronger, I think. I don't think I would've gotten better as quickly as I did, if you hadn't popped back into my life. I really believe that. So. Thanks.

Dave struggles to hide his emotions.

DAVID

Yeah, man. Well, you know I loves ya.

LARAMIE

Yeah, brother. Love you too. I'm glad we're doin' this. Even if we can't get the others out here too.

DAVID

At least Bobby's drunk ass won't be trying to sing show tunes at four in the morning.

LARAMIE

The WORST.

DAVID

Totally.

LARAMIE

Hey, man. Can I ask you something?

DAVID

Of course.

LARAMIE

I'm good, you know. But if- if I were to get sick again. Like if it came back and I couldn't beat it-

DAVID

Laramie-

LARAMIE

No, please. Um. If that did happen.  
Or anything. Could you do me a favor?

David stares ahead.

LARAMIE (CONT'D)

Could you have me scattered over the  
lake?

DAVID

Why-

LARAMIE

You know, like confetti.

DAVID

Jesus.

LARAMIE

Human confetti.

DAVID

Why are you even talking about this?

Laramie looks out the window.

OUTSIDE the sky is blue and unending.

LARAMIE

Some of the best times in my life  
were at that lake with you guys. It  
was such a part of me that I guess  
I'd like to return the favor.

No response from David. Laramie looks over at him.

LARAMIE (CONT'D)

Davey?

David's eyes are welling with tears.

LARAMIE (CONT'D)

Dude?

DAVID

Of course, man. I got you.

Laramie smiles.

LARAMIE

Cool.

(MORE)

LARAMIE (CONT'D)

And if, you know, if you go first  
and want me to sprinkle you in that  
fountain outside Hoover Hall where  
you first got a handy or something,  
I'm here for you too.

They laugh. David sighs. A welcome relief. He looks out  
over the horizon.

In the distance is a small gas station.

DAVID

Hey, brother?

LARAMIE

Don't tell me you gotta piss again?!

DAVID

Sorry. I need a break.

LARAMIE

You haven't even drank anything!

DAVID

I don't know what to tell you! I  
gotta take a leak.

LARAMIE

Awe, c'mon. We are so close, man.

DAVID

It's the last time I can stop before  
the lake.

He pulls into the gravel lot.

LARAMIE

Why are you doing this to me?!

DAVID

This isn't for you, ya selfish dick.  
It's for me. I need a break.

LARAMIE

But you can pee at the lake!

David shuts off the car.

DAVID

You want anything?

Laramie stares out the window, pouting.

LARAMIE

Na. I'm all set. I want for nothing.

DAVID

You sure?

Laramie sits up.

LARAMIE

You know what? Yeah. Get me a lottery ticket.

DAVID

You?

LARAMIE

Yeah. I'm feelin' it.

He reaches into his pockets, and comes up empty.

LARAMIE (CONT'D)

I'll Venmo you. Get the big one!

DAVID

Okay.

He opens the door, and is about to step out.

LARAMIE

Oh, and dude.

DAVID

Yeah.

LARAMIE

Since it's your thing, I'll even let you scratch it for me. How's that?

DAVID

Oooh.

LARAMIE

Pay you back for hauling my ass out here.

DAVID

You don't have to-

LARAMIE

We can split the winnings.

DAVID

Probably be like twenty bucks if we win anything at all.

LARAMIE

That's ten each! You can buy one and a half bags of mango habanero chili cheese combos with your half.

DAVID

Okay. Thanks, man.

He steps out and slams the door.

6 EXT. GAS STATION PARKING LOT - DAY 6

From the car, Laramie bangs on the window.

David looks back, squinting in the sunlight.

Laramie, smiling ear to ear, gives an enthusiastic "thumbs up."

LARAMIE

Today's the day, brotha!

David scoffs and gives two thumbs up in reply. He smiles, shakes his head, and turns to walk inside.

7 INT. DAVID'S CAR - GAS STATION PARKING LOT - DAY 7

Laramie watches his friend disappear inside and sits for a moment. He breathes deeply and stretches.

He glances into the back seat.

The box is there.

He looks back to the store.

No signs of life.

He slowly looks back at the box and smiles.

8 INT. GAS STATION - DAY 8

Mirroring the opening scene, a coin scratches away the silver coating of a LOTTERY TICKET.

ALL MATCHES across the ticket.

David's eyes widen as he stares in disbelief at the winning ticket.

DAVID

Today's the day, brotha.

9 EXT. GAS STATION PARKING LOT - DAY 9

David burst out of the door, still staring at the lottery ticket. He takes a few steps from the sidewalk before looking up at his car.

He stops.

His smile melts.

Ahead of him, the car is empty.

His eyes fill with tears as he slowly shuffles up to the passenger door.

Inside, the passenger seat is empty.

He shuffles around and slumps into the driver's seat.

10 INT. DAVID'S CAR - GAS STATION PARKING LOT - DAY

10

David closes the door slowly. He can't bring himself to look into the back seat.

He closes his eyes and takes a deep breath.

He opens his eyes and slowly turns.

IN THE BACK SEAT, the box is open.

Inside the box is a silver urn.

Etched into the urn is:

"LARAMIE JACOBS 1981 - 2024"

David swallows hard, wiping away tears.

He lifts up the winning lottery ticket and smiles.

He places the ticket in the box with the urn and slowly closes the lid.

11 EXT. HIGHWAY - GAS STATION PARKING LOT - DAY

11

David's car slowly crawls out onto the lonely highway and drives a little further down the road.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END