

A LITTLE FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD

an original screenplay by

Nathan Shelton

Nathan Shelton
1752 N. Drake Ave #1
Chicago, IL 60647
417.827.4245
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.

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 always kept us movin' forward,
man. The real life force of the
group, I think.

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, you know?

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 ya
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.