35

The door swings open. She hits the lights -- and FREEZES.

REVERSE ANGLE. The office has been RANSACKED. File cabinets torn open and scoured. Loose papers tossed about. She quickly grabs the phone and punches in a number.

DR. WARREN

(into phone)

I need Security, Room 204!

36 INT. HOLDEN'S BEDROOM - LATER

36

Holden stands in front of the window. Calm. Watching as the dog BARKS up at him from the backyard. Luke enters behind him, arms cradling a bulky desktop computer. He sets it on a desk, blows off a layer of dust.

start ->

LUKE

Here, this should do the trick...
it's a CD-ROM so it can't burn
music, but it's got Wi-fi...

HOLDEN

He's afraid of me.

LUKE

Who? Ralphie? He's like, ninetyone in dog years, he's afraid of his own tail. Don't take it personally.

(then; remembering)
Do you remember the last thing you told me? Before...

Holden shakes his head.

LUKE (CONT'D)

"Take good care of Ralphie." You made me swear on the holy sacred covenant of brotherhood.

Holden smiles, remembering.

HOLDEN

There's no such thing.

LUKE

(warmly) Sure there is.

(then; genuine)

You okay?

1/4

10712 - COK

This authentic concern catches Holden off his guard.

HOLDEN

(covers)

Yeah. Course.

LUKE

Because you can tell me if you're not... Y'know... okay.

HOLDEN

Okay.

LUKE

I'd be out of my mind, pissing down my left leg terrified -- (catches himself)
Not that you should be terrified...

HOLDEN

I'm fine. This morning... I just wanted some fresh air. That's all.

Luke studies Holden. Knows he's holding something back.

LUKE

Swear by the holy sacred covenant of brotherhood?

HOLDEN

I swear by the holy sacred covenant of brotherhood.

Luke nods, satisfied. Digs out a set of CAR KEYS.

LUKE

C'mon. Mom gave me money for a shaver, maybe some new clothes... you up for a drive?

Holden stops. A thought just occurred to him.

LUKE (CONT'D)

What is it?

HOLDEN

... I've never driven a car before.

SMASH TO: SC- |

37 INT. GARAGE - HOLDEN'S HOUSE - LATER

37

Holden sits behind the wheel. A puzzled look on his face as he studies at the complex dashboard. Luke sits shotgun.

Sheriff Dayton pulls the folder closer. Studies the label. His face hardens, tightening into a frown.

The label reads: "MATTHEWS, HOLDEN"

39 INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

39

We're in a Target-like warehouse. Hot HALOGENS and THRONGS of people dominate the space.

ON HOLDEN. He squints against the severe lighting -- which now almost seems to grow BRIGHTER.

IN HOLDEN'S POV

Shoppers swarm around him. SUFFOCATING him as they jostle him and we see the occasional glance of recognition as they slow to stare and it's all too goddamn OVERWHELMING --

LUKE

Holden --?

Holden SNAPS back to normal. The white light has softened. The buzzing... CONE. Holden collects himself as we CUT To:

40 INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - MINUTES LATER

40

Holden stands facing a mirror, appraising a new button down shirt. And he's not thrilled with it.

START ->

LUKE

So? What do you think?

HOLDEN

I think I look like Dad. (beat)

Or somebody's dad.

Luke glances just over Holden's shoulder.

LUKE

She seems to like it.

Holden looks past the mirror -- an attractive BRUNETTE stands in the women's lingerie section -- looking right at Holden.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Wait, don't -- (too late)

-- Or you can look right at her.

Who needs subtlety, right?

ON HOLDEN as his heart quickens as they make eye contact.

HOLDEN

Think she recognizes me?

LUKE

Not unless she owns a TV. Or a computer. Or has had any interaction with the outside world in the past three weeks.

HOLDEN

What do I do?

LUKE

Go over there and talk to her. Maybe she wants an autograph. (then; suggestive) Maybe she wants something more.

Holden looks uneasy. Luke catches this hesitation. Realizes that talking to girls, like shaving, never entered his life.

> LUKE (CONT'D) Look, there's nothing to it. Honest. Just go over and ask her name. Compliment her. That's very important. It doesn't matter what, just y'know, pick something and tell her it looks good. She'll like that.

Holden nods, psyching himself up.

HOLDEN

(smiles uneasily) / END

... Here goes.

He starts to walk over, but Luke stops him. Sc. Z

LUKE

Wait --

Luke grabs another stripped shirt off a nearby rack, quickly holds it up to Holden -- then, satisfied, we SMASH TO:

41 INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - MINUTES LATER

41

Holden approaches the Brunette. We see he's wearing the new shirt, fresh off the rack -- TAGS HANGING OUT.

HOLDEN

Hey.

The Brunette looks up, startled. Maybe this was a bad idea.