

Echoes under Ashwood Transcript  
Episode 1 - Welcome to Ashwood

1

00:00:01.070 --> 00:00:03.790

Welcome to Roll for Sanity.

2

00:00:03.890 --> 00:00:11.030

This is Echoes Under Ashwood, a collaborative audio drama using Call of Cthulhu 7th edition.

3

00:00:11.370 --> 00:00:16.510

It's a slow burn horror story about a group of friends who lost one of their own in

4

00:00:16.510 --> 00:00:22.590

high school, drifted apart, and are now being pulled back together decades later for

5

00:00:22.590 --> 00:00:24.810

a reunion none of them wanted.

6

00:00:25.400 --> 00:00:27.950

Before we begin, a content warning.

7

00:00:28.370 --> 00:00:31.810

This series explores themes of childhood trauma.

8

00:00:32.350 --> 00:00:34.710

Details can be found in the show notes.

9

00:00:35.310 --> 00:00:37.690

Listener discretion is strongly advised.

10

00:00:38.330 --> 00:00:43.790

If you enjoy the show, you can find bonus episodes, extended scenes, and in-world

11

00:00:43.790 --> 00:00:47.450

artifacts in our Patreon vault, the Latchkey Lair.

12

00:00:47.970 --> 00:00:52.310

Ratings, reviews, and shares help more than you might think.

13

00:00:52.950 --> 00:00:53.550

Now.

14

00:01:52.460 --> 00:01:59.280

Welcome to Roll for Sanity.

15

00:01:59.700 --> 00:02:01.280

This is Echoes Under Ashwood.

16

00:02:01.600 --> 00:02:06.280

It's a cosmic horror story about the small town places that raised us, the lies

17

00:02:06.280 --> 00:02:09.560

we were told, the strangleholds put on us.

18

00:02:10.199 --> 00:02:12.360

And the stuff we didn't really talk about.

19

00:02:13.020 --> 00:02:16.740

If this is your first time stopping by, grab a beanbag chair and hang out for a

20

00:02:16.740 --> 00:02:17.840

while, we'll catch you up.

21

00:02:18.460 --> 00:02:21.860

If you just walked in without knocking, we assume you brought them out in due.

22

00:02:22.840 --> 00:02:26.780

But before we begin, a quick note about how this story works.

23

00:02:28.200 --> 00:02:31.120

What you're about to hear is purely collaborative.

24

00:02:32.340 --> 00:02:37.580

Each of the collaborators, or as we will call them, players, created their

25

00:02:37.580 --> 00:02:38.320

own characters.

26

00:02:39.760 --> 00:02:42.360

The only shared foundation was this.

27

00:02:43.660 --> 00:02:45.500

That they were our best friends in high school.

28

00:02:46.840 --> 00:02:48.820

That one of their closest friends disappeared.

29

00:02:50.200 --> 00:02:53.520

And whatever happened back then left damage.

30

00:02:55.040 --> 00:02:58.760

Everything else, the personalities, the strengths, the blind spots,

31

00:02:59.340 --> 00:03:00.460

that came from them.

32

00:03:01.580 --> 00:03:03.480

Each character has defined abilities.

33

00:03:04.100 --> 00:03:06.500  
How perceptive they are, how persuasive.

34  
00:03:07.140 --> 00:03:11.520  
How steady they are when things start to fracture.

35  
00:03:12.620 --> 00:03:15.040  
When something uncertain happens, we test those limits.

36  
00:03:15.660 --> 00:03:19.100  
Sometimes they succeed, sometimes they don't.

37  
00:03:19.700 --> 00:03:21.480  
Either way, the story progresses.

38  
00:03:22.900 --> 00:03:24.300  
These aren't heroes, mind you.

39  
00:03:24.540 --> 00:03:29.500  
They're middle-aged Gen X adults carrying unfinished business, walking

40  
00:03:29.500 --> 00:03:33.820  
back into a hometown that remembers them differently than they remember it.

41  
00:03:33.820 --> 00:03:36.660  
This is a place of childhood trauma.

42  
00:03:37.360 --> 00:03:39.840  
Thin places where reality unravels.

43  
00:03:40.460 --> 00:03:42.060  
Your dice will betray you.

44

00:03:42.480 --> 00:03:43.940

The void will tempt us.

45

00:03:44.160 --> 00:03:46.180

But all we can do is smirk into oblivion.

46

00:03:47.440 --> 00:03:52.480

So with that, I want to introduce those of us who are playing as part

47

00:03:52.480 --> 00:03:55.820

of the Role for Sanity group, the latchkey kids, so to speak.

48

00:03:56.380 --> 00:03:58.280

And so why don't everybody introduce yourself?

49

00:03:58.360 --> 00:03:59.120

Carrie, you go first.

50

00:03:59.160 --> 00:04:03.100

Tell us a bit about yourself and who you're playing in this session.

51

00:04:04.000 --> 00:04:05.940

Yeah, my name is Carrie Harris.

52

00:04:06.220 --> 00:04:08.260

I make shit up for a living.

53

00:04:08.640 --> 00:04:14.620

I've written for Marvel, Miraculous Ladybug, actually a couple of other

54

00:04:14.620 --> 00:04:16.180

licenses that I can't tell you.

55

00:04:16.380 --> 00:04:18.899  
And yes, I'm taunting you.

56  
00:04:19.839 --> 00:04:21.660  
Playboy for the articles.

57  
00:04:24.660 --> 00:04:25.260  
Under a pseudonym.

58  
00:04:25.260 --> 00:04:26.460  
You weren't supposed to tell.

59  
00:04:26.600 --> 00:04:27.740  
Under a pseudonym.

60  
00:04:27.880 --> 00:04:28.820  
All right.

61  
00:04:29.160 --> 00:04:30.880  
Art Pratt. Art Pratt is a pseudonym.

62  
00:04:30.880 --> 00:04:31.340  
Yes.

63  
00:04:35.020 --> 00:04:36.660  
Yeah, I'm writing under all of your names.

64  
00:04:36.660 --> 00:04:37.540  
Yeah, exactly.

65  
00:04:37.920 --> 00:04:38.400  
Right.

66

00:04:39.180 --> 00:04:45.020

I'm playing Bex Lexington, who is a former punk singer,

67

00:04:45.520 --> 00:04:49.740

uber rebel who has since become a county coroner,

68

00:04:49.740 --> 00:04:55.460

but is still just as tattooed, pierced and pissed off as she used to be.

69

00:04:56.900 --> 00:04:57.420

Outstanding.

70

00:04:58.320 --> 00:04:59.000

Welcome, Carrie.

71

00:04:59.100 --> 00:04:59.840

Thanks for playing.

72

00:05:00.440 --> 00:05:01.400

Angela, you go.

73

00:05:03.600 --> 00:05:04.020

All right.

74

00:05:04.680 --> 00:05:06.360

I'm Angela Edwards.

75

00:05:07.220 --> 00:05:09.440

I'm a retired math teacher.

76

00:05:10.600 --> 00:05:17.600

And I sew and make jewelry as a hobby, I guess, since I close my business.

77

00:05:17.700 --> 00:05:18.320

You do stuff.

78

00:05:19.160 --> 00:05:20.420

I do stuff.

79

00:05:21.420 --> 00:05:30.220

And I am playing Dawn McBride, who was the local extraordinarily poor

80

00:05:30.220 --> 00:05:40.240

girl, and kind of grew up and found her people in the Earth's first commune.

81

00:05:40.380 --> 00:05:44.620

And so now she's very what most people would call woo woo.

82

00:05:44.760 --> 00:05:45.580

Woo woo.

83

00:05:46.100 --> 00:05:46.500

Woo woo woo.

84

00:05:47.160 --> 00:05:48.180

Hippie patchouli lady.

85

00:05:49.640 --> 00:05:51.100

Absolutely, except not the patchouli.

86

00:05:51.120 --> 00:05:52.040

Patchouli smells bad.

87

00:05:52.060 --> 00:05:52.360

Yeah.

88

00:05:53.140 --> 00:05:53.880  
We don't patchouli.

89  
00:05:53.900 --> 00:05:55.020  
Sandalwood and nut champa.

90  
00:05:55.380 --> 00:05:56.700  
Patchouli is not deodorant.

91  
00:05:56.720 --> 00:05:57.580  
Thank you very much.

92  
00:05:59.060 --> 00:05:59.420  
Awesome.

93  
00:05:59.420 --> 00:05:59.940  
Thanks.

94  
00:06:00.240 --> 00:06:01.300  
Thanks for being here, Angela.

95  
00:06:01.500 --> 00:06:02.640  
Greg, how about you?

96  
00:06:03.180 --> 00:06:03.520  
Me.

97  
00:06:03.920 --> 00:06:05.060  
So I'm Greg Baimel.

98  
00:06:06.000 --> 00:06:06.760  
Let's see.

99

00:06:06.780 --> 00:06:07.880

I work in statistics.

100

00:06:07.960 --> 00:06:10.080

So like Carrie, I also make shit up for a living.

101

00:06:10.640 --> 00:06:11.340

Yep, exactly.

102

00:06:12.600 --> 00:06:19.380

And the character I'm playing is Lance McLean, a child of academics who were

103

00:06:19.380 --> 00:06:25.260

too smart for their surroundings and rejected all that and went off to become a business

104

00:06:25.260 --> 00:06:30.560

in the space of clowning and goofing around.

105

00:06:32.220 --> 00:06:32.520

Yes.

106

00:06:33.320 --> 00:06:37.860

So, wow, this character cuts really, really closely to your actual lived life.

107

00:06:38.220 --> 00:06:38.600

It does.

108

00:06:39.220 --> 00:06:39.780

Uncanny.

109

00:06:41.060 --> 00:06:42.640

None of the rest of us did that either.

110

00:06:42.660 --> 00:06:43.820

No, of course not.

111

00:06:44.440 --> 00:06:47.960

No, that wasn't part of the instructions either.

112

00:06:49.760 --> 00:06:50.100

Awesome.

113

00:06:50.240 --> 00:06:51.760

Greg, it's going to be a good time.

114

00:06:51.840 --> 00:06:52.500

Thanks for being here.

115

00:06:52.620 --> 00:06:53.540

Art, you go next.

116

00:06:54.440 --> 00:06:55.360

All right.

117

00:06:55.680 --> 00:06:56.700

My name is Art Pratt.

118

00:06:56.780 --> 00:06:59.940

I am an ultrasound tech by trade.

119

00:07:00.260 --> 00:07:05.000

So like Angela and Greg, I also make shit up for a living, as you've ever

120

00:07:05.000 --> 00:07:05.860

looked at those screens.

121

00:07:05.860 --> 00:07:06.120

Oh, yeah.

122

00:07:07.580 --> 00:07:20.240

I am playing Oscar Hannigan, who goes by Oz, a guy who ran from his very abusive

123

00:07:20.240 --> 00:07:28.640

childhood into the military, had a horrible accident, is scarred on the left side of

124

00:07:28.640 --> 00:07:35.660

his body from a horrible burn, and now is a private investigator.

125

00:07:35.980 --> 00:07:36.400

Interesting.

126

00:07:37.120 --> 00:07:38.020

I think that's pretty good.

127

00:07:38.160 --> 00:07:39.140

That is pretty good.

128

00:07:39.380 --> 00:07:39.960

That is pretty good.

129

00:07:40.180 --> 00:07:40.540

Yeah.

130

00:07:40.760 --> 00:07:43.000

The rest shall be exposed later.

131

00:07:43.580 --> 00:07:45.560

We don't want you to expose anything to us.

132

00:07:45.580 --> 00:07:46.290

Thank you very much.

133

00:07:48.620 --> 00:07:49.800

And thanks, Art.

134

00:07:49.800 --> 00:07:52.600

Grant, round us out here.

135

00:07:53.220 --> 00:07:53.720

Hello, everyone.

136

00:07:53.740 --> 00:07:54.500

Grant Gleissner.

137

00:07:55.880 --> 00:07:57.280

I am originally from Wisconsin.

138

00:07:57.300 --> 00:07:58.680

That's where James and I met.

139

00:08:00.100 --> 00:08:05.460

I work in the IT field, mostly doing kind of like project management stuff these days.

140

00:08:06.620 --> 00:08:10.160

But every once in a while, we got to get out and move some stuff and pull some cables

141

00:08:10.160 --> 00:08:10.640

or whatever.

142

00:08:11.320 --> 00:08:18.300

So my character is going to be Harry Glassman, also known as the Ass Man.

143

00:08:19.360 --> 00:08:27.720

He's a very fond of baseball, and he is a huge fan of the Cincinnati Reds.

144

00:08:27.800 --> 00:08:32.240

He moved closer to Cincinnati so that he could be there after leaving high school

145

00:08:33.100 --> 00:08:35.220

just to be in their orbit, so to speak.

146

00:08:37.260 --> 00:08:44.280

I would say a not realistic person in the fact that he's very optimistic.

147

00:08:44.360 --> 00:08:45.820

He thinks that everything is funny.

148

00:08:46.520 --> 00:08:48.560

Everything is done for his amusement.

149

00:08:49.900 --> 00:08:55.100

All the stuff that goes on in the rest of the world stops immediately when he turns

150

00:08:55.100 --> 00:08:57.080

his eyes the other way he doesn't think about.

151

00:08:57.400 --> 00:09:01.920

He still thinks that his hometown is exactly the way he left it a week after graduation.

152

00:09:02.480 --> 00:09:06.380

So he is very excited about going back and seeing all his old friends.

153

00:09:06.440 --> 00:09:08.960

Nothing changed at whatsoever.

154

00:09:09.080 --> 00:09:10.240

Nothing could have changed at all.

155

00:09:10.520 --> 00:09:11.060

Thanks, Grant.

156

00:09:12.300 --> 00:09:13.140

I'm James.

157

00:09:13.860 --> 00:09:17.540

You're a, quote, keeper in this operation.

158

00:09:17.740 --> 00:09:23.840

It has, in fact, been more than 30 years since I've done this, so this will be quite

159

00:09:23.840 --> 00:09:24.340

interesting.

160

00:09:25.280 --> 00:09:32.180

So I've had a lot of time to think about stuff and many, many dozens, probably

161

00:09:32.180 --> 00:09:38.040

hundreds of hours of therapy now from which to draw for this tentacular horror

162

00:09:38.040 --> 00:09:39.220

that we're going to go through.

163

00:09:40.400 --> 00:09:41.360

Yes, tentacular.

164

00:09:42.080 --> 00:09:43.440

Everybody loves tentacles.

165

00:09:44.120 --> 00:09:45.100

Lots of squirmy things.

166

00:09:45.760 --> 00:09:48.600

So just a little bit for the folks.

167

00:09:49.140 --> 00:09:51.380

This is basically, you guys are all returning home.

168

00:09:52.320 --> 00:09:54.800

Some of you would rather not.

169

00:09:55.440 --> 00:09:58.500

Some of you have never been back there since you left high school after

170

00:09:58.500 --> 00:10:00.000

graduating in 1990.

171

00:10:01.080 --> 00:10:04.540

Kind of a long-held-off reunion here.

172

00:10:05.920 --> 00:10:10.740

And you were all thick as thieves in high school and even junior high to

173

00:10:10.740 --> 00:10:11.340

some extent.

174

00:10:12.000 --> 00:10:13.700

Kind of like that group of misfits.

175

00:10:14.000 --> 00:10:18.060

You didn't quite fit with anybody else for whatever reason you guys clicked.

176

00:10:19.640 --> 00:10:20.260

Thanks, Angela.

177

00:10:20.260 --> 00:10:20.800

I saw that.

178

00:10:20.920 --> 00:10:22.360

You're having dirty thoughts on your face.

179

00:10:22.420 --> 00:10:22.740

Okay.

180

00:10:22.800 --> 00:10:23.460

That's excellent.

181

00:10:24.740 --> 00:10:28.860

I will read your IMs if they're appropriate through the Discord.

182

00:10:29.460 --> 00:10:30.040

So awesome.

183

00:10:30.320 --> 00:10:32.240

But in general, that's what we're doing.

184

00:10:33.340 --> 00:10:37.580

To remind you all, you are all going back to this town on the same day,

185

00:10:37.660 --> 00:10:40.100

going to the same place because you received a letter.

186

00:10:40.100 --> 00:10:43.600

You were mentioned in your friend Amy in her will.

187

00:10:43.900 --> 00:10:48.300

Amy was one of the groups of you that was thick as thieves in high school.

188

00:10:48.560 --> 00:10:49.120

And you know what?

189

00:10:50.340 --> 00:10:51.260

She disappeared.

190

00:10:52.920 --> 00:10:55.720

Like a long time ago, like 30-something years ago.

191

00:10:56.080 --> 00:10:59.340

We'll get into that story as the game unfolds.

192

00:10:59.560 --> 00:11:03.980

But she came back unbeknownst to you and left a will.

193

00:11:04.400 --> 00:11:05.720

She's gone now again.

194

00:11:06.400 --> 00:11:07.500

So kind of mysterious.

195

00:11:07.660 --> 00:11:08.680

You're kind of going back there.

196

00:11:08.680 --> 00:11:10.660

You don't know what the hell is going on.

197

00:11:11.180 --> 00:11:13.560

But it's important enough that, you know, think about it.

198

00:11:13.620 --> 00:11:18.220

Somebody from 30 years ago that you were thick with and suddenly disappears,

199

00:11:18.380 --> 00:11:24.000

and you didn't talk to them, and then they name you as someone in their will.

200

00:11:24.220 --> 00:11:25.240

That's quite odd.

201

00:11:25.320 --> 00:11:28.180

So you're very interested to go back to see what this is all about.

202

00:11:30.320 --> 00:11:31.160

Any questions?

203

00:11:33.470 --> 00:11:34.370

Any recollections?

204

00:11:34.410 --> 00:11:35.570

Anything we need to know?

205

00:11:36.790 --> 00:11:39.250

I can't wait to get back to the hometown.

206

00:11:39.570 --> 00:11:40.050

Exactly.

207

00:11:40.610 --> 00:11:45.830

I've been thinking about the sliders on the corner of the burger stand for

208

00:11:46.430 --> 00:11:48.150

ever since I got this letter.

209

00:11:48.330 --> 00:11:49.890

I'm just so excited.

210

00:11:50.610 --> 00:11:51.550

Beside yourself.

211

00:11:53.010 --> 00:11:53.850

Oh, yeah.

212

00:11:53.950 --> 00:11:58.510

I can't wait to see all the old crew and all the old haunts that I used to go to.

213

00:11:58.570 --> 00:11:59.550

I'm going to go fishing.

214

00:11:59.690 --> 00:12:01.290

I'm going to go hunting again.

215

00:12:01.870 --> 00:12:06.870

I'm going to take the canoe out on the reservoir above the dam.

216

00:12:07.050 --> 00:12:07.750

It's going to be awesome.

217

00:12:08.370 --> 00:12:08.650

It's going to be great.

218

00:12:08.650 --> 00:12:09.210

It's going to be great.

219

00:12:09.210 --> 00:12:10.430

Glad to hear, Harry.

220

00:12:10.850 --> 00:12:12.330

It's going to be awesome.

221

00:12:13.730 --> 00:12:18.930

I'm also really curious as to why after all this time I was mentioning in the will.

222

00:12:21.490 --> 00:12:27.510

There was a thing that Harry has always been wondering about.

223

00:12:27.650 --> 00:12:32.430

It's like, wait, did she put me in the will because she really had a thing for me?

224

00:12:32.510 --> 00:12:33.810

I thought it was something else.

225

00:12:34.150 --> 00:12:36.510

Maybe I was mistaken about our relationship.

226

00:12:36.510 --> 00:12:39.230

No, Harry wouldn't be mistaken about anything.

227

00:12:41.330 --> 00:12:42.250

I don't know.

228

00:12:42.570 --> 00:12:46.570

I'm more concerned with why she never told us she came back before she disappeared again.

229

00:12:46.990 --> 00:12:52.290

I mean, we were that close and why did she not tell us she came back?

230

00:12:52.430 --> 00:12:53.890

Why didn't she tell me she came back?

231

00:12:54.010 --> 00:12:54.910  
Did I do something wrong?

232  
00:12:55.470 --> 00:12:55.890  
Probably.

233  
00:12:56.330 --> 00:12:57.070  
Probably did.

234  
00:12:57.530 --> 00:12:58.730  
You probably did, yes.

235  
00:12:59.050 --> 00:13:03.350  
I'm mostly surprised that the lawyers found me because I went off grid years ago.

236  
00:13:03.910 --> 00:13:04.690  
Weird, right?

237  
00:13:05.430 --> 00:13:06.110  
Mm-hmm.

238  
00:13:06.570 --> 00:13:06.630  
Weird.

239  
00:13:06.770 --> 00:13:08.270  
How did they find you?

240  
00:13:09.530 --> 00:13:10.090  
Interesting.

241  
00:13:10.530 --> 00:13:11.070  
Interesting.

242

00:13:11.670 --> 00:13:14.370

But I barely decided to come.

243

00:13:14.450 --> 00:13:17.290

I almost just threw the letter in the trash.

244

00:13:18.930 --> 00:13:22.290

Curiosity, I guess, just got a little bit of a better of me

245

00:13:22.570 --> 00:13:29.750

where I was thinking, you know, why would she leave anything for me in the will?

246

00:13:30.490 --> 00:13:35.990

My plan is to pull into town, get this over with, and get out of town.

247

00:13:35.990 --> 00:13:37.070

Get out of town, yep.

248

00:13:37.650 --> 00:13:37.930

Yeah.

249

00:13:37.990 --> 00:13:38.810

Oh, yeah, I know that feeling.

250

00:13:38.830 --> 00:13:40.150

I have no desire to stay.

251

00:13:41.730 --> 00:13:41.970

Yeah.

252

00:13:42.110 --> 00:13:44.010

I'm kind of in the same boat, fucker.

253

00:13:44.630 --> 00:13:45.090

Yeah.

254

00:13:45.710 --> 00:13:46.710

I'm coming out of spite.

255

00:13:47.190 --> 00:13:48.030

Yeah, nice.

256

00:13:49.070 --> 00:13:49.600

Love it.

257

00:13:50.790 --> 00:13:56.850

Whereas I'm like, oh my God, Amy, and I dropped everything and went.

258

00:13:57.550 --> 00:13:58.110

Excellent.

259

00:13:58.290 --> 00:14:03.870

We're going to get into your relationships here with Amy in just a little bit,

260

00:14:03.950 --> 00:14:09.470

but I wanted to introduce folks to this place called Ashwood, Ohio.

261

00:14:10.790 --> 00:14:16.150

Any similarities to any real place called Ashwood, Ohio is not my intention.

262

00:14:16.590 --> 00:14:21.050

However, it is my intention to draw corollaries to other small towns in Ohio.

263

00:14:22.390 --> 00:14:25.610

So just saying, you know, Carrie is the author.

264

00:14:25.790 --> 00:14:26.330

What do they say?

265

00:14:26.330 --> 00:14:27.590

Write what you know.

266

00:14:28.230 --> 00:14:28.990

That's what I did.

267

00:14:29.610 --> 00:14:31.050

I've been to some of those places.

268

00:14:31.370 --> 00:14:33.150

Yes, write what you know.

269

00:14:33.910 --> 00:14:36.110

So I wrote the shit out of this.

270

00:14:36.910 --> 00:14:45.650

So I'm going to put a map of Ohio behind me next time with a pin in it.

271

00:14:46.510 --> 00:14:47.410

You can do that.

272

00:14:47.530 --> 00:14:48.110

You could do that.

273

00:14:48.130 --> 00:14:48.970

It might actually be helpful.

274

00:14:50.730 --> 00:14:52.250

That's just flyover territory.

275

00:14:52.470 --> 00:14:55.490

Once you get west of like middle of Pennsylvania,

276

00:14:55.490 --> 00:14:58.070

there's nothing left until you get to L.A. as far as I'm concerned.

277

00:14:59.130 --> 00:15:04.190

Well, then I'm literally living in the middle of nowhere.

278

00:15:04.470 --> 00:15:04.970

You are.

279

00:15:05.610 --> 00:15:06.810

But what about the Reds?

280

00:15:06.990 --> 00:15:09.890

The Reds are the only thing that's important between the coasts.

281

00:15:09.890 --> 00:15:10.570

You know that, right?

282

00:15:12.930 --> 00:15:16.430

That fourth coast on the mighty Ohio River, right?

283

00:15:17.490 --> 00:15:18.270

Yeah, exactly.

284

00:15:20.790 --> 00:15:23.810

You got to open one of your panic rooms over there, my friend.

285

00:15:23.810 --> 00:15:25.730

I get a chance to see you a little bit more.

286

00:15:25.810 --> 00:15:28.270

This is going to be really hard for an IRL Yankees fan.

287

00:15:31.510 --> 00:15:33.250

Yeah, and it's all clicks and whistles to me.

288

00:15:34.690 --> 00:15:36.070

So let me get started here.

289

00:15:36.250 --> 00:15:38.510

Let's give folks an introduction to Ashwood here.

290

00:15:38.530 --> 00:15:40.010

So I want to go through this.

291

00:15:40.210 --> 00:15:43.340

And this is going to describe what it feels like being there right now

292

00:15:43.990 --> 00:15:50.550

on your way back because it's early June and it's just too damn hot.

293

00:15:51.410 --> 00:15:53.090

I mean, not summer hot.

294

00:15:53.090 --> 00:15:54.650

Like, wrong hot.

295

00:15:55.390 --> 00:15:59.390

Like, it feels like the air is hanging on you like wet wool.

296

00:16:00.330 --> 00:16:01.230

It's the heat there.

297

00:16:01.510 --> 00:16:05.870

It's not like burning hot, but it just like sticks to you, clings to you, right?

298

00:16:05.870 --> 00:16:08.470

It makes you forget what day it is, right?

299

00:16:08.470 --> 00:16:10.350

It makes you remember things you wish you hadn't.

300

00:16:10.530 --> 00:16:12.470

Just like, God, this is oppressive.

301

00:16:12.630 --> 00:16:15.090

But this is Ashwood, Ohio, and this is your hometown.

302

00:16:16.950 --> 00:16:20.770

Population, 20,000, if you count the ones who disappeared.

303

00:16:22.110 --> 00:16:27.410

The town squats down in the bowl of the hills where the Appalachians start to sag.

304

00:16:27.990 --> 00:16:31.610

The Ohio River twists around like it's trying to get away.

305

00:16:32.930 --> 00:16:38.930

It's all overgrown rail lines, shuttered factories, neighborhoods sinking into the clay.

306

00:16:41.260 --> 00:16:42.460

Ashwood used to hum, though.

307

00:16:42.920 --> 00:16:44.000

You remember this, right?

308

00:16:44.020 --> 00:16:45.480

Rail yards by the mile.

309

00:16:46.780 --> 00:16:49.520

Foundries belching light into the night sky.

310

00:16:50.380 --> 00:16:53.440

Machine shops that just never slept, going constantly.

311

00:16:53.580 --> 00:16:56.860

Dirty hands, clean money is what they used to say around here.

312

00:16:58.520 --> 00:16:59.960

And then the jobs left in the 80s.

313

00:17:01.760 --> 00:17:03.940

Now, steel's gone.

314

00:17:05.040 --> 00:17:07.060

Rail yards are bone piles.

315

00:17:09.060 --> 00:17:12.079

What's left are back roads and empty diners.

316

00:17:13.560 --> 00:17:16.140

Strip malls where the signs glow but the stores are gone.

317

00:17:18.020 --> 00:17:24.460

A town that smells like cut grass and wet asphalt and whatever's rotting beneath the surface.

318

00:17:25.819 --> 00:17:31.880

The jobs left, the lights went out, kids with them, right?

319

00:17:31.880 --> 00:17:35.860

The kids there grew up knowing two things about Ashwood.

320

00:17:37.620 --> 00:17:43.140

The only way out is luck and the hollow always takes us due.

321

00:17:45.050 --> 00:17:46.830

Folks here still hang on, though, in Ashwood.

322

00:17:46.970 --> 00:17:48.850

I mean, there's still obviously people living there still.

323

00:17:49.830 --> 00:17:52.390

You know, some say, oh, yeah, we're still a town of 20,000.

324

00:17:52.410 --> 00:17:52.990

Are you?

325

00:17:53.230 --> 00:17:53.890

No, probably not.

326

00:17:53.890 --> 00:17:55.530

Probably more like 15 or 12.

327

00:17:55.530 --> 00:17:56.330

They're stubborn.

328

00:17:57.110 --> 00:17:57.790

They're suspicious.

329

00:17:58.930 --> 00:18:03.750

Like, if they keep showing up, right, to Sunday church and Friday night football,

330

00:18:05.210 --> 00:18:06.810  
the world might forget to end.

331  
00:18:08.550 --> 00:18:10.890  
The school's mascot's the raven, right?

332  
00:18:10.890 --> 00:18:11.730  
But it makes sense.

333  
00:18:11.990 --> 00:18:15.810  
Ashwood High Ravens, scavengers, mean one cornered.

334  
00:18:15.870 --> 00:18:16.970  
Cacaw, motherfuckers.

335  
00:18:19.730 --> 00:18:20.570  
Picking bones.

336  
00:18:22.750 --> 00:18:24.950  
Picking bones of what's left of Ashwood.

337  
00:18:24.950 --> 00:18:26.630  
Ravens make sense, right?

338  
00:18:27.850 --> 00:18:33.110  
Oh, and I meant to tell you, so that part about the hollow taking us due?

339  
00:18:35.050 --> 00:18:36.730  
Locals around here call it the Fen.

340  
00:18:38.110 --> 00:18:41.930  
That deep gash of a ravine there northeast of town,

341

00:18:42.570 --> 00:18:45.750  
thick, dark woods, looping trails down in there.

342  
00:18:47.050 --> 00:18:48.490  
I'm kind of known for that around here.

343  
00:18:48.530 --> 00:18:52.910  
This is a place where it's said no one really knows where that damn stream

344  
00:18:52.910 --> 00:18:55.790  
down on the bottom of the ravine starts or ends.

345  
00:18:57.010 --> 00:18:59.170  
Trails out there change when you're not looking at them.

346  
00:19:00.290 --> 00:19:03.990  
Maps go all soft and fuzzy around the edges, right?

347  
00:19:03.990 --> 00:19:05.510  
Your phone's no damn good out there.

348  
00:19:06.690 --> 00:19:08.170  
Or anywhere around here, really.

349  
00:19:09.310 --> 00:19:09.730  
I'll wink.

350  
00:19:11.470 --> 00:19:13.470  
Hikers get turned around out there all the time.

351  
00:19:13.510 --> 00:19:15.610  
Even the locals get turned around out there, right?

352

00:19:15.610 --> 00:19:17.770

There's hundreds of acres of nothing special.

353

00:19:18.430 --> 00:19:20.370

And something else all together in there.

354

00:19:21.190 --> 00:19:23.350

Sometimes people come back different from the Fen.

355

00:19:24.570 --> 00:19:26.070

Sometimes it'll come back at all.

356

00:19:27.510 --> 00:19:28.190

Like how?

357

00:19:29.790 --> 00:19:30.690

How, you ask.

358

00:19:31.410 --> 00:19:32.050

I didn't ask.

359

00:19:32.070 --> 00:19:32.750

Did you guys ask?

360

00:19:33.390 --> 00:19:37.050

Yes, you should all be asking yourself this and many other questions about

361

00:19:37.050 --> 00:19:38.230

why you chose to do this.

362

00:19:39.590 --> 00:19:40.030

So like how?

363

00:19:40.130 --> 00:19:44.310

So ask around and listen real close and you'll hear about Lily Caldwell.

364

00:19:45.310 --> 00:19:48.130

17 and too damn smart for her own good, that girl was.

365

00:19:48.930 --> 00:19:50.290

She vanished in 87.

366

00:19:50.370 --> 00:19:52.290

Just gone, poof.

367

00:19:52.690 --> 00:19:54.510

No note, no trace.

368

00:19:56.170 --> 00:20:00.190

Some people say she ran off to Vegas and that them Caldwell girls was trouble.

369

00:20:01.030 --> 00:20:02.290

Can't say and don't know.

370

00:20:03.030 --> 00:20:06.710

And her little sister Amy, she spent three years looking for Lily.

371

00:20:07.870 --> 00:20:10.430

Now, now nobody will admit this part.

372

00:20:12.060 --> 00:20:13.540

It's because she kept up a good front.

373

00:20:14.880 --> 00:20:16.380

But that little girl, she knew something.

374

00:20:17.620 --> 00:20:18.940

She found something out.

375

00:20:19.940 --> 00:20:21.300

And she up and vanished too.

376

00:20:22.600 --> 00:20:25.140

But nobody talks about them anymore, not out loud anyway.

377

00:20:26.320 --> 00:20:28.580

But you can feel their presence around here, like a bruise,

378

00:20:28.580 --> 00:20:30.300

like a deep bruise under the skin.

379

00:20:30.380 --> 00:20:32.220

You can't see it, but you can certainly feel it.

380

00:20:33.140 --> 00:20:36.220

And the way folks pause before the word Caldwell.

381

00:20:37.660 --> 00:20:40.440

And the way the woods seems quieter when you pass by the hollow.

382

00:20:42.500 --> 00:20:44.780

Some folks say there's a resonance to this place.

383

00:20:45.360 --> 00:20:47.700

Say the town's built on old ley lines,

384

00:20:47.700 --> 00:20:52.040

but the fan hums like it's singing something deep down,

385

00:20:52.100 --> 00:20:54.180  
like a tuning fork stabbed into the world.

386  
00:20:55.100 --> 00:20:58.220  
You grew up here, you learn not to ask questions.

387  
00:20:59.000 --> 00:21:01.260  
You learn to stay out of them woods after dark.

388  
00:21:03.090 --> 00:21:05.470  
And you learn that dreams are never just dreams.

389  
00:21:06.790 --> 00:21:09.130  
Because sometimes those dreams remember you back.

390  
00:21:11.030 --> 00:21:14.990  
For instance, take Amy, Amy Caldwell.

391  
00:21:15.590 --> 00:21:18.010  
Some say she came back for a bit after she left, right?

392  
00:21:18.010 --> 00:21:21.730  
Someone claiming to be her anyway, just for a little while.

393  
00:21:22.790 --> 00:21:29.590  
She came back in 2015, acting strange and leaving a trail of blood and questions.

394  
00:21:31.450 --> 00:21:36.370  
Right around that time though, the dreams in town start getting worse.

395  
00:21:37.770 --> 00:21:40.590  
But you got to realize that the dreams have always been weird here.

396

00:21:40.950 --> 00:21:44.130

People having weird dreams, deep ones, real heavy dreams.

397

00:21:44.730 --> 00:21:48.750

Dreams where you swear you remember things that you never lived.

398

00:21:50.230 --> 00:21:52.550

Dreams where you're like someone else entirely.

399

00:21:54.150 --> 00:21:55.850

And if you're lucky, you wake up.

400

00:21:56.870 --> 00:22:00.310

If not, well, that's Ashwood.

401

00:22:01.730 --> 00:22:06.690

This is a place where memories bend, where the missing never really leave.

402

00:22:07.070 --> 00:22:09.750

Sometimes though, you don't come back the same.

403

00:22:10.770 --> 00:22:12.290

And something in the hollow is listening.

404

00:22:12.290 --> 00:22:15.560

So welcome back to Ashwood.

405

00:22:18.330 --> 00:22:20.610

I can't wait to smell those woods again.

406

00:22:23.010 --> 00:22:24.870

Get out in the friend.

407

00:22:25.610 --> 00:22:28.450

I feel like you need a soundtrack, like dun dun dun.

408

00:22:28.790 --> 00:22:30.190

Oh, there will be a soundtrack.

409

00:22:31.350 --> 00:22:32.450

What do you think I've been working on?

410

00:22:33.230 --> 00:22:35.130

So what I've done here as a means to,

411

00:22:35.130 --> 00:22:37.770

and I call this session zero to introduce everyone's characters,

412

00:22:37.870 --> 00:22:41.530

is I wrote little vignettes for everyone as they arrive into town.

413

00:22:42.250 --> 00:22:46.390

I have, as I shall, as the keeper, taken many liberties

414

00:22:46.390 --> 00:22:52.690

to provide some background for folks and to get us just really started.

415

00:22:52.770 --> 00:22:54.550

And what I'd like to do now is start with Dawn.

416

00:22:55.570 --> 00:22:56.990

Dawn's arrival into Ashwood.

417

00:22:57.010 --> 00:23:02.330

And I would like to set the scene for you, Dawn, and others, if you allow me to.

418

00:23:03.450 --> 00:23:07.610

So your van is rattling like it's held together by hope and paint.

419

00:23:08.670 --> 00:23:09.270

It is.

420

00:23:10.290 --> 00:23:13.450

This van you borrowed from your commune, right?

421

00:23:13.510 --> 00:23:15.310

It's a half camper, half tomb.

422

00:23:15.830 --> 00:23:18.430

The dash buzzes when you hit 60, it's just rattling.

423

00:23:18.610 --> 00:23:22.450

The AC died years ago, and because it's so hot out,

424

00:23:22.530 --> 00:23:27.110

all the vents are blowing this damp air with dust in it.

425

00:23:27.470 --> 00:23:28.930

This is fantastic stuff for you.

426

00:23:28.990 --> 00:23:31.330

It's in the back, got the sleeping pads or whatever.

427

00:23:32.290 --> 00:23:34.970

Your old chipped enamel mugs are sliding around with you,

428

00:23:35.030 --> 00:23:36.370

bouncing around, clattering.

429

00:23:37.030 --> 00:23:39.010

They're well anchored.

430

00:23:39.010 --> 00:23:41.290

I know how to travel at this point.

431

00:23:43.630 --> 00:23:45.170

The heat is really brutal.

432

00:23:45.430 --> 00:23:47.230

It should not be this hot right now.

433

00:23:47.290 --> 00:23:47.770

It should not be.

434

00:23:47.770 --> 00:23:50.910

I probably have to turn on the heat to keep the van from overheating, too.

435

00:23:51.050 --> 00:23:51.530

Probably.

436

00:23:53.110 --> 00:23:57.850

This is like August in Texas hot, not like Southern Ohio hot.

437

00:23:57.930 --> 00:23:58.710

And this is June.

438

00:23:59.390 --> 00:24:00.390

The blacktop ripples.

439

00:24:00.790 --> 00:24:01.710

The air is thick.

440

00:24:02.170 --> 00:24:02.930

It chokes you.

441

00:24:03.030 --> 00:24:06.170

It's like every time you breathe, it tastes like tar and asphalt.

442

00:24:06.750 --> 00:24:09.830

Your shirt or whatever, your tunic.

443

00:24:09.890 --> 00:24:11.390

Is that what your character would be wearing?

444

00:24:12.610 --> 00:24:16.190

Your tunic and hippie beads are clinging to you.

445

00:24:16.290 --> 00:24:18.250

Your hair is plastered down onto you.

446

00:24:18.450 --> 00:24:21.970

Steering wheel's slick and sticky at the same time.

447

00:24:22.390 --> 00:24:25.630

Got my sweaty, wet bandana that I've worn for two days.

448

00:24:26.770 --> 00:24:29.350

FM radio gave up miles and miles ago.

449

00:24:29.410 --> 00:24:31.330

And that's one thing you're going to find out here about Ashwood,

450

00:24:31.650 --> 00:24:33.090

is that FM radio don't work here.

451

00:24:33.650 --> 00:24:37.370

They say it's minerals in the hills or whatever the hell it is,

452

00:24:37.970 --> 00:24:39.710

but All You gets AM.

453

00:24:40.030 --> 00:24:41.150

Always getting through.

454

00:24:41.550 --> 00:24:45.030

There's this faint signal just crackles in and out every now and again.

455

00:24:45.230 --> 00:24:48.570

Pick up a preacher bleeding in, promising salvation.

456

00:24:49.970 --> 00:24:50.990

You all need salvation.

457

00:24:51.170 --> 00:24:53.470

This is all of Ashwood needs salvation, needs saving.

458

00:24:54.910 --> 00:24:55.590

Then you feel it.

459

00:24:55.630 --> 00:24:57.050

You feel a shudder.

460

00:24:57.210 --> 00:24:59.790

Feel the engine cough just once.

461

00:25:00.710 --> 00:25:01.950

And then it coughs again.

462

00:25:03.210 --> 00:25:06.370

And then this floor peels out of you.

463

00:25:06.910 --> 00:25:09.550

Oh, come on, baby, just a little farther.

464

00:25:09.910 --> 00:25:11.910

Right on the outskirts of Ashwood.

465

00:25:13.730 --> 00:25:17.870

Now all you get is these heat waves just rippling up.

466

00:25:17.870 --> 00:25:18.750

Greasy shimmers.

467

00:25:19.410 --> 00:25:22.870

Silence, except for that ping of your engine as it cools down.

468

00:25:25.470 --> 00:25:26.750

Then the air kind of changes.

469

00:25:27.250 --> 00:25:31.390

On your left, as you're entering into Ashwood, is the Fenn.

470

00:25:31.390 --> 00:25:36.990

And a cool blast of damp air just sort of pulses up and out of the Fenn

471

00:25:36.990 --> 00:25:39.790

and washes over you like the Fenn is exhaling.

472

00:25:42.280 --> 00:25:42.960

Who'd we lose, Craig?

473

00:25:44.260 --> 00:25:44.620

Craig.

474

00:25:45.040 --> 00:25:45.340

Yeah.

475

00:25:45.940 --> 00:25:47.160

OK, we'll see if he comes back.

476

00:25:48.400 --> 00:25:49.420

Lance, where did you go?

477

00:25:49.540 --> 00:25:50.120

Well done, Lance.

478

00:25:50.120 --> 00:25:51.660

The Fenn got him, and he did his disappearing act.

479

00:25:51.740 --> 00:25:52.540

Yeah, he did.

480

00:25:53.780 --> 00:25:54.280

He'll be back.

481

00:25:54.280 --> 00:25:55.160

He'll be back.

482

00:25:56.660 --> 00:26:01.560

So that contrast of that furnace hot air and this cool, damp, moist air

483

00:26:01.560 --> 00:26:04.520

smells of wet stream bed and leaves.

484

00:26:04.720 --> 00:26:06.080

It's really shocking.

485

00:26:07.400 --> 00:26:08.440

It's kind of seductive.

486

00:26:09.580 --> 00:26:09.980

Home.

487

00:26:10.940 --> 00:26:14.900

Snakes around you, around your arms, on into your skin.

488

00:26:15.900 --> 00:26:17.440

Draws your eyes down into the hollow.

489

00:26:19.140 --> 00:26:20.520

That's when you hear it.

490

00:26:24.780 --> 00:26:27.940

High-pitched, playful girls' laughter.

491

00:26:28.540 --> 00:26:29.620

Girls on a playground.

492

00:26:31.080 --> 00:26:32.040

Off in the distance.

493

00:26:33.100 --> 00:26:34.060

You know nobody's down there.

494

00:26:34.060 --> 00:26:35.000

There's no playground there.

495

00:26:35.000 --> 00:26:36.600

At least in a playground, you remember.

496

00:26:38.440 --> 00:26:42.080

But you know that sound slides down into your chest.

497

00:26:42.260 --> 00:26:44.140

Sounds aching to you, familiar.

498

00:26:45.200 --> 00:26:46.900

Sounds like every summer you lost.

499

00:26:47.520 --> 00:26:48.540

And it sounds like Amy.

500

00:26:49.180 --> 00:26:49.800

Don't worry, girl.

501

00:26:49.800 --> 00:26:50.820

I hear you.

502

00:26:51.000 --> 00:26:52.120

I'm here for you.

503

00:26:53.600 --> 00:26:54.540

Dawn, it's drawing you out.

504

00:26:54.560 --> 00:26:55.360

So you've got to get out.

505

00:26:55.380 --> 00:26:56.560

You can't stop yourself.

506

00:26:56.680 --> 00:26:57.440

The door creaks.

507

00:26:57.740 --> 00:26:59.240

Shoes are sticky on the tar.

508

00:27:00.860 --> 00:27:01.300

Shoes.

509

00:27:01.900 --> 00:27:02.500

Shoes.

510

00:27:02.960 --> 00:27:05.560

Okay, you're now burned.

511

00:27:05.780 --> 00:27:10.700

Souls plump and blistered on the hot asphalt.

512

00:27:12.420 --> 00:27:13.420

Something's drawing you there.

513

00:27:13.420 --> 00:27:15.000

And then you see it right on the edge.

514

00:27:15.400 --> 00:27:17.500

The old what we'd call the whispering tree.

515

00:27:18.540 --> 00:27:22.300

This giant willow looms right in front of you.

516

00:27:22.320 --> 00:27:24.060

It's calling you over to it.

517

00:27:25.990 --> 00:27:27.130

You can't stop yourself.

518

00:27:28.090 --> 00:27:29.550

What is this sound?

519

00:27:29.910 --> 00:27:32.650

Why is this tree bringing me there?

520

00:27:34.950 --> 00:27:38.970

The closer you get, it seems like the shadow of that tree

521

00:27:38.970 --> 00:27:40.690

just starts swallowing the light.

522

00:27:41.870 --> 00:27:45.710

And you see the big old gnarled trunk barks

523

00:27:45.710 --> 00:27:48.720

carved with decades, decades and decades of initials.

524

00:27:50.710 --> 00:27:52.550

I give the tree a big old hug.

525

00:27:54.210 --> 00:27:55.790

Somewhere in that mess is your mark.

526

00:27:55.830 --> 00:27:56.830

You know it is.

527

00:27:57.070 --> 00:27:58.130

And Amy's mark.

528

00:27:59.770 --> 00:28:01.710

So why don't you roll a spot hidden for me?

529

00:28:02.730 --> 00:28:03.230

Sure.

530

00:28:07.080 --> 00:28:09.040

So you're going to use two dice, right?

531

00:28:09.140 --> 00:28:10.800

A tens dice and a ones dice.

532

00:28:11.220 --> 00:28:11.400

A tens and a ones?

533

00:28:11.400 --> 00:28:12.600

And the idea here, yep.

534

00:28:12.860 --> 00:28:14.420

The idea here is you're going to roll under.

535

00:28:15.520 --> 00:28:16.900

Rolling under is a success.

536

00:28:17.820 --> 00:28:18.240

Okay.

537

00:28:19.280 --> 00:28:20.440

And by how much you roll under,

538

00:28:20.540 --> 00:28:22.420

it's going to determine how much of a success you have

539

00:28:22.420 --> 00:28:23.580  
at spotting something that's hidden.

540  
00:28:23.720 --> 00:28:25.140  
Oh, I certainly didn't roll under.

541  
00:28:25.160 --> 00:28:26.080  
I rolled a 98.

542  
00:28:26.540 --> 00:28:27.240  
Oh, boy.

543  
00:28:27.540 --> 00:28:30.320  
Now that's great because you know what that is?

544  
00:28:30.440 --> 00:28:32.000  
That's what you would call a fumble.

545  
00:28:32.440 --> 00:28:33.100  
Oh, yeah.

546  
00:28:33.780 --> 00:28:37.700  
And that means I get to make shit up about what happens to you.

547  
00:28:37.700 --> 00:28:45.540  
So what we're going to do is we're going to say that you go in for a closer look

548  
00:28:45.540 --> 00:28:47.120  
and you give that tree a big old hug

549  
00:28:47.120 --> 00:28:49.940  
and you poke a little piece of bark right in your eyeball.

550

00:28:50.160 --> 00:28:50.520

Ow.

551

00:28:51.360 --> 00:28:56.240

And so now you can only see out of your right eye for the rest of the session.

552

00:28:57.380 --> 00:28:59.240

That might come in handy a little bit later.

553

00:28:59.620 --> 00:29:00.500

Oh, tree.

554

00:29:01.460 --> 00:29:02.140

Well done.

555

00:29:02.140 --> 00:29:03.600

I know how that shit feels.

556

00:29:06.460 --> 00:29:07.360

Yes, tree.

557

00:29:07.900 --> 00:29:09.460

I have been gone too long.

558

00:29:09.920 --> 00:29:12.080

You have, right?

559

00:29:12.500 --> 00:29:17.160

But you know, in feeling your way around this tree,

560

00:29:17.440 --> 00:29:22.720

you do your fingers brush grooves and I don't know, you touch something.

561

00:29:23.260 --> 00:29:29.320

It's like the world snaps sideways and your head doesn't catch up.

562

00:29:30.280 --> 00:29:34.820

There's a surge of static that just rockets through your bones.

563

00:29:35.500 --> 00:29:40.620

Your ears pop and just for a heartbeat, you're not here.

564

00:29:41.680 --> 00:29:43.780

You're standing on the ravine's edge at night.

565

00:29:44.100 --> 00:29:47.010

Your younger self is frozen in place.

566

00:29:48.880 --> 00:29:50.360

Shadows are swirling below.

567

00:29:50.780 --> 00:29:54.840

Something vast in the bottom of the fen exhales up through the trees.

568

00:29:56.360 --> 00:29:58.000

Roll a sanity check for me.

569

00:30:01.020 --> 00:30:02.960

Let's see if I roll nice and high again.

570

00:30:04.680 --> 00:30:05.680

That's session zero.

571

00:30:05.700 --> 00:30:06.760

Who's going to go insane?

572

00:30:06.920 --> 00:30:08.440

Okay, I rolled a 30.

573

00:30:08.680 --> 00:30:09.680

And what is your sanity?

574

00:30:10.300 --> 00:30:11.660

My sanity is 60.

575

00:30:12.280 --> 00:30:12.480

Awesome.

576

00:30:12.800 --> 00:30:15.420

So your sanity is 60 and you roll a 30.

577

00:30:15.440 --> 00:30:16.180

So that's half.

578

00:30:16.180 --> 00:30:18.680

So you roll basically what's called a hard success.

579

00:30:19.060 --> 00:30:20.980

So you don't just squeak by.

580

00:30:21.120 --> 00:30:23.820

You're like, hell yeah, I got what's about me.

581

00:30:24.060 --> 00:30:26.520

But you still take a point of sanity loss.

582

00:30:27.520 --> 00:30:28.000

Okay.

583

00:30:28.000 --> 00:30:29.600

So now you're at 59.

584

00:30:30.260 --> 00:30:30.720

Okay.

585

00:30:31.480 --> 00:30:33.780

Well, that vision shatters that you had like glass.

586

00:30:34.780 --> 00:30:39.320

Zip your back or you stagger, gripping the bark of that tree a bit.

587

00:30:39.400 --> 00:30:42.840

That hum fades, leaves you baking in the heat.

588

00:30:43.920 --> 00:30:46.200

Your pulse is racing, uneasy.

589

00:30:48.080 --> 00:30:51.300

But you're more certain now than ever that that tree remembers you.

590

00:30:53.220 --> 00:30:55.440

But you finally tear yourself away.

591

00:30:56.020 --> 00:30:57.980

You stumble back to the road, back to your vehicle.

592

00:30:58.000 --> 00:31:00.640

Not exactly sure what the hell you're going to do.

593

00:31:01.060 --> 00:31:02.120

Dead metal in the sun.

594

00:31:02.600 --> 00:31:03.560

You open that door.

595

00:31:04.280 --> 00:31:06.080

That heat hits you like a wall again.

596

00:31:06.960 --> 00:31:11.940

But you see that old, awful flip phone that you borrowed from the commune.

597

00:31:12.640 --> 00:31:16.520

The phone could only be dumber if it had a coiled cord and it was attached to the wall.

598

00:31:17.860 --> 00:31:19.900

You could have sworn you put that in the glove box.

599

00:31:20.900 --> 00:31:21.800

But it's open.

600

00:31:22.560 --> 00:31:23.400

The screen's glowing.

601

00:31:23.480 --> 00:31:24.820

It says one missed call.

602

00:31:25.980 --> 00:31:27.300

From Chuck's garage.

603

00:31:28.060 --> 00:31:32.340

It's a voicemail confirming that Chuck's on his way to get you with his tow truck.

604

00:31:32.800 --> 00:31:33.420

Thank you, Amy.

605

00:31:36.520 --> 00:31:37.560

Star wipe.

606

00:31:40.860 --> 00:31:41.960

Star wipe.

607

00:31:42.800 --> 00:31:44.640

So Dawn, welcome back.

608

00:31:45.160 --> 00:31:49.720

Welcome back to Ashwood and your reacquaintance with the hippie tree,

609

00:31:50.040 --> 00:31:51.280

with the whispering tree.

610

00:31:52.360 --> 00:31:53.960

Ashwood remembers you.

611

00:31:54.900 --> 00:31:56.120

Ashwood remembers you.

612

00:31:58.240 --> 00:31:59.640

I'd like to move on to Harry now.

613

00:32:00.540 --> 00:32:01.260

Oh, yeah.

614

00:32:01.260 --> 00:32:08.600

Harry is cruising down the highway with the windows open so that he can smell his hometown again.

615

00:32:09.220 --> 00:32:14.300

He wants to feel the way the breeze is blowing.

616

00:32:14.560 --> 00:32:19.840

Maybe he'll get a chance to figure out whether or not there's any gaming season right around now.

617

00:32:20.340 --> 00:32:21.100

Sniffing out the window.

618

00:32:21.580 --> 00:32:23.400

It's too early for the deer to be in rut.

619

00:32:25.260 --> 00:32:26.460

Yeah, yeah, it's too early.

620

00:32:26.560 --> 00:32:27.180

It's only June.

621

00:32:27.200 --> 00:32:28.600

No deer hunting this time of year.

622

00:32:28.620 --> 00:32:30.340

But maybe the fish are biting.

623

00:32:30.340 --> 00:32:33.100

I'll bet they're jumping down by the dam.

624

00:32:33.140 --> 00:32:33.660

Dam number five.

625

00:32:33.660 --> 00:32:37.520

Let me tell you about your ride into Ashwood here.

626

00:32:37.880 --> 00:32:41.160

The glassman security van is limping into Ashwood.

627

00:32:41.480 --> 00:32:43.100

It's like a dying animal now.

628

00:32:43.940 --> 00:32:46.720

Each rattle sounds longer than the last rattle, right?

629

00:32:46.720 --> 00:32:48.560

Your engine light's been flirting with you,

630

00:32:48.600 --> 00:32:53.680

popping on and off since Athens, Ohio, coming over from Cincinnati.

631

00:32:54.980 --> 00:32:56.200

It's overheating now, right?

632

00:32:56.200 --> 00:32:57.620

Your gauge is screaming red.

633

00:32:58.240 --> 00:32:59.900

Steam's seeping up from under the hood.

634

00:33:00.980 --> 00:33:03.600

Oh, man, I'm going to have to pee in the radiator.

635

00:33:04.240 --> 00:33:05.940

This isn't going to be good at all.

636

00:33:07.300 --> 00:33:09.460

But that sun is merciless, man.

637

00:33:09.460 --> 00:33:10.620

It's just beaten down on you.

638

00:33:10.660 --> 00:33:11.220

You can feel it.

639

00:33:11.320 --> 00:33:12.460

It's not gold-worn.

640

00:33:12.800 --> 00:33:13.280

It's white.

641

00:33:14.020 --> 00:33:16.140

It's like washed out the sky hot.

642

00:33:16.920 --> 00:33:19.640

Sweat rolls down your temples, stinging your eyes.

643

00:33:19.860 --> 00:33:21.960

It's patching, sticking to your shirt and patches,

644

00:33:22.040 --> 00:33:24.960

even though that old air conditioner in there just wasn't keeping up.

645

00:33:25.480 --> 00:33:27.940

So you coast the van off the road onto the gravel.

646

00:33:28.460 --> 00:33:29.280

It's crunching.

647

00:33:29.280 --> 00:33:30.720

It's a familiar sound.

648

00:33:30.900 --> 00:33:32.320

This is something that you remember fondly.

649

00:33:34.100 --> 00:33:37.200

Reminds me of going out into the woods to drink some beers with the buddies.

650

00:33:38.200 --> 00:33:39.740

All right, this isn't so bad.

651

00:33:39.760 --> 00:33:41.140

This isn't as bad as it seems.

652

00:33:41.360 --> 00:33:42.700

The gravel into Chuck's garage.

653

00:33:42.860 --> 00:33:45.020

Buildings, nothing but cinder block bones.

654

00:33:45.360 --> 00:33:46.880

Paints peeling off and strips.

655

00:33:48.020 --> 00:33:49.080

Hand-painted sign.

656

00:33:49.700 --> 00:33:51.420

Wow, I really let my mind wander.

657

00:33:51.900 --> 00:33:53.380

Yeah, signs sagging with age.

658

00:33:54.080 --> 00:33:56.500

You see his tow truck out there, baking in the sun.

659

00:33:57.100 --> 00:34:00.240

Tires kind of melted soft, a little dry rotten.

660

00:34:01.120 --> 00:34:03.000

Slumped like a drunk uncle under the tree.

661

00:34:03.380 --> 00:34:05.560

Speaking as a drunk uncle, I know what this looks like.

662

00:34:06.720 --> 00:34:07.640

You hear wind chimes.

663

00:34:08.560 --> 00:34:10.360

This is the first thing you really notice.

664

00:34:10.860 --> 00:34:11.520

Made out of wrenches.

665

00:34:12.500 --> 00:34:13.300

Faint tinkling.

666

00:34:14.400 --> 00:34:16.199

That Chuck, he's always got a good...

667

00:34:16.199 --> 00:34:16.699

He does.

668

00:34:16.800 --> 00:34:18.560

He's a crafty fellow, that Chuck.

669

00:34:19.460 --> 00:34:21.040

You learn a lot if you hang out with Chuck.

670

00:34:21.080 --> 00:34:23.719

Every note is kind of sharp, over-metallic,

671

00:34:24.080 --> 00:34:26.159

like the place is whining in pain.

672

00:34:26.500 --> 00:34:29.100

But inside, the air is not much better though,

673

00:34:29.179 --> 00:34:30.699

but it does smell of oil.

674

00:34:31.980 --> 00:34:33.679

Sweat goes to cigarette smoke.

675

00:34:34.800 --> 00:34:36.699

Some people say that smells like money.

676

00:34:37.320 --> 00:34:39.500

And I have a feeling I'm going to be paying some money

677

00:34:39.500 --> 00:34:41.020

to Chuck here today because that...

678

00:34:42.020 --> 00:34:43.300

My van is not doing well right now.

679

00:34:43.320 --> 00:34:45.300

It's thick enough inside to taste though.

680

00:34:45.800 --> 00:34:46.980

But at least you're out of the glare.

681

00:34:47.320 --> 00:34:48.080

It's a little bit darker.

682

00:34:48.639 --> 00:34:49.360

It's not so bad.

683

00:34:49.520 --> 00:34:51.400

Behind the desk, there's a young woman.

684

00:34:51.639 --> 00:34:53.520

Popsicle stick hanging out of her mouth.

685

00:34:53.520 --> 00:34:56.800

She's got her phone cradled to one side.

686

00:34:56.840 --> 00:35:00.660

She's typing on the computer with her other pixie cut,

687

00:35:00.920 --> 00:35:04.080

dark hair, black makeup, raccoon eyes,

688

00:35:04.640 --> 00:35:06.500

t-shirt that says the Ramones on it.

689

00:35:06.500 --> 00:35:08.960

It's all stained and got holes in it.

690

00:35:09.560 --> 00:35:10.160

20-something.

691

00:35:11.360 --> 00:35:12.580

Let me guess, your name's Charlene.

692

00:35:12.580 --> 00:35:14.340

She looks up at you with a grin.

693

00:35:14.920 --> 00:35:15.680

Razor sharp.

694

00:35:16.160 --> 00:35:17.600

And this is Alyssa Hinesman.

695

00:35:18.000 --> 00:35:18.940

This is Chuck's kid.

696

00:35:20.180 --> 00:35:22.480

Well, I knew you must be a Chuck of some sort.

697

00:35:22.480 --> 00:35:26.760

She says, uh, holy hell.

698

00:35:28.420 --> 00:35:29.420

You gotta be Harry.

699

00:35:30.180 --> 00:35:32.320

Dad said you'd swing through here sooner or later.

700

00:35:32.840 --> 00:35:34.040

You remembered me?

701

00:35:34.040 --> 00:35:35.300

I can't believe it.

702

00:35:35.460 --> 00:35:35.860

Wow.

703

00:35:36.200 --> 00:35:38.060

Dad said you'd be through here sooner or later.

704

00:35:38.380 --> 00:35:40.060

Says you used to be legendary.

705

00:35:40.240 --> 00:35:40.860

Oh, gosh, yeah.

706

00:35:41.040 --> 00:35:44.500

That time you jumped the tracks like some movie stunt

707

00:35:44.500 --> 00:35:46.920

and you nearly got creamed by that train.

708

00:35:47.300 --> 00:35:49.260

He never stops talking about it.

709

00:35:49.280 --> 00:35:51.140

Hey, Dad, she shouts.

710

00:35:51.140 --> 00:35:54.080

I'm glad my parents left town not long after that

711

00:35:54.080 --> 00:35:56.200

because I'm glad they never got that story.

712

00:35:56.260 --> 00:35:57.400

That would have gotten us so much.

713

00:35:57.620 --> 00:36:00.020

She shouts over her shoulders.

714

00:36:00.240 --> 00:36:01.420

Hey, Dad, he's here.

715

00:36:02.640 --> 00:36:05.380

And then you see the service bay door swing open

716

00:36:05.380 --> 00:36:06.380

and here comes Chuck.

717

00:36:08.480 --> 00:36:10.280

Harry smooths his hair a little bit

718

00:36:10.280 --> 00:36:12.380

just to try to get some of the sweat off

719

00:36:12.380 --> 00:36:13.540

so he can see his...

720

00:36:13.540 --> 00:36:15.280

Wipes his hand on his pants real quick

721

00:36:15.280 --> 00:36:18.460

so he can reach out and give a good handshake to old Chuck.

722

00:36:19.220 --> 00:36:20.860

Overalls greased, stained.

723

00:36:21.320 --> 00:36:23.140

Hair is kind of frizzled, wild.

724

00:36:23.400 --> 00:36:24.180

Shoulder length.

725

00:36:24.700 --> 00:36:25.720

Stinks of weed.

726

00:36:26.660 --> 00:36:27.960

Smudges of grease on his face.

727

00:36:29.460 --> 00:36:31.120

Chuck, you haven't changed a day.

728

00:36:31.760 --> 00:36:32.900

You didn't age a bit.

729

00:36:32.960 --> 00:36:34.140

What's going on, man?

730

00:36:34.340 --> 00:36:35.740

It's so good to see you again.

731

00:36:35.900 --> 00:36:36.960

You go in for the handshake.

732

00:36:37.020 --> 00:36:39.480

He opens his arms up and goes in for the bear hug

733

00:36:39.480 --> 00:36:40.080

and he says...

734

00:36:41.360 --> 00:36:41.960

Oh, oh, yeah.

735

00:36:42.540 --> 00:36:45.300

Harry fucking, Harry fucking Glassman, man.

736

00:36:47.420 --> 00:36:49.020

Oh, God, it's so good to be back, Chuck.

737

00:36:49.080 --> 00:36:49.940

I can't believe it.

738

00:36:50.040 --> 00:36:51.100

I can't believe that.

739

00:36:51.100 --> 00:36:53.660

Listen, maybe we're just talking about us, man.

740

00:36:53.660 --> 00:36:54.640

How does this happen?

741

00:36:54.660 --> 00:36:55.840

It's a weird way the world works,

742

00:36:55.840 --> 00:36:57.920

but you got to come check this out.

743

00:36:58.320 --> 00:36:59.520

This is just too weird.

744

00:36:59.520 --> 00:37:00.800

You got to see this, right?

745

00:37:01.440 --> 00:37:02.300

Let me show you something.

746

00:37:02.440 --> 00:37:02.800

What do you got?

747

00:37:02.920 --> 00:37:03.240

What you got?

748

00:37:03.460 --> 00:37:03.500

Got a good one?

749

00:37:03.500 --> 00:37:05.580

So it takes you outside, around the back.

750

00:37:06.500 --> 00:37:08.640

Again, that heat slams right into you.

751

00:37:10.440 --> 00:37:11.940

Yeah, it's pretty brutal.

752

00:37:12.700 --> 00:37:14.800

You walk around the back of the shop

753

00:37:14.800 --> 00:37:16.560

and there's a half torn tarp.

754

00:37:16.580 --> 00:37:17.940

This tarp is like shredded.

755

00:37:18.420 --> 00:37:19.100

Half of it's shredded.

756

00:37:19.100 --> 00:37:21.340

Half of it looks like it'd been under plywood or something,

757

00:37:21.340 --> 00:37:22.480

but it's covering up something.

758

00:37:22.700 --> 00:37:25.140

An old wrecked LeMans.

759

00:37:25.220 --> 00:37:27.140

It's 1977 LeMans.

760

00:37:27.360 --> 00:37:28.740

What you got under there, Chuck?

761

00:37:30.100 --> 00:37:31.240

What year is that again?

762

00:37:31.360 --> 00:37:33.320

He looks at you like it's a 77.

763

00:37:33.780 --> 00:37:35.400

This is your car, man.

764

00:37:36.140 --> 00:37:37.000

He's like the whole front.

765

00:37:37.660 --> 00:37:38.880

What do you mean my car?

766

00:37:39.600 --> 00:37:40.680

I had a car like that.

767

00:37:41.420 --> 00:37:43.060

My parents had a car like that,

768

00:37:43.060 --> 00:37:44.200

but we sold it when we moved.

769

00:37:44.220 --> 00:37:45.600

The whole front end's crumpled in.

770

00:37:45.640 --> 00:37:46.600

The windshield shattered.

771

00:37:46.780 --> 00:37:48.600

Hoods twisted like at loss of fight.

772

00:37:49.360 --> 00:37:50.400

He's like, this is it.

773

00:37:50.460 --> 00:37:51.900

This is the car we almost died in.

774

00:37:52.000 --> 00:37:53.340

We jumped the Miller Street tracks

775

00:37:53.340 --> 00:37:54.920

after Rob's after prom party.

776

00:37:55.080 --> 00:37:56.880

The after after prom party, right?

777

00:37:56.940 --> 00:37:59.120

That train missed us by inches, man.

778

00:38:00.000 --> 00:38:01.960

This is that self-same car.

779

00:38:02.340 --> 00:38:03.960

Not just another one that looks like it.

780

00:38:04.060 --> 00:38:04.780

You're kidding me, man.

781

00:38:04.860 --> 00:38:08.340

I bought it off a Holman when he sold me the shop.

782

00:38:08.500 --> 00:38:10.840

He's like, I keep it around for the kids, right?

783

00:38:11.120 --> 00:38:12.100

Scare them straight.

784

00:38:15.120 --> 00:38:17.880

Well, I'm glad it's at least a useful piece of junk

785

00:38:17.880 --> 00:38:18.940

that you got in the back here.

786

00:38:18.940 --> 00:38:20.140

This is amazing, man.

787

00:38:20.700 --> 00:38:23.060

All these memories come flying back to me.

788

00:38:23.200 --> 00:38:25.100

The heat's pressing harder on you now.

789

00:38:25.140 --> 00:38:27.160

You start to feel this pressure in your ears.

790

00:38:28.000 --> 00:38:28.880

Little footing.

791

00:38:29.920 --> 00:38:32.540

I'm going to go up and sniff out the car a little bit

792

00:38:32.540 --> 00:38:35.140

and say, yeah, it still smells like puke from that.

793

00:38:36.440 --> 00:38:37.640

My date that night.

794

00:38:37.840 --> 00:38:38.180

Oh, God.

795

00:38:38.480 --> 00:38:40.600

The sky suddenly gets too bright on you.

796

00:38:41.720 --> 00:38:43.460

The air, the air is buzzing around you.

797

00:38:43.460 --> 00:38:44.260

It's too loud.

798

00:38:45.080 --> 00:38:51.140

And deep inside, deep inside past that hairy selective memory,

799

00:38:52.620 --> 00:38:53.760

you know you weren't there.

800

00:38:55.360 --> 00:38:56.300

You remember that night.

801

00:38:56.300 --> 00:38:58.320

You remember Rob's after-after party,

802

00:38:58.960 --> 00:39:00.380

but you never jumped any tracks.

803

00:39:01.580 --> 00:39:04.320

You absolutely know deep down on the core of you

804

00:39:04.320 --> 00:39:06.100

that you did not jump these tracks.

805

00:39:07.200 --> 00:39:08.540

And yet, here it is, though.

806

00:39:09.280 --> 00:39:11.480

Right here's this Hulk, this relic,

807

00:39:11.680 --> 00:39:12.880

something you never lived.

808

00:39:13.660 --> 00:39:16.400

It's just sweating, glaring at you.

809

00:39:16.700 --> 00:39:20.740

To break the moment, Alyssa kind of leans in.

810

00:39:20.760 --> 00:39:22.260

Says he even kept the registration.

811

00:39:22.980 --> 00:39:24.800

Makes the story hit even harder.

812

00:39:26.880 --> 00:39:29.520

My dad would be real interested about to hear that.

813

00:39:29.840 --> 00:39:30.940

I'd love to see that.

814

00:39:31.180 --> 00:39:33.500

I'm going to take a picture of that and send it back to him.

815

00:39:34.300 --> 00:39:35.220

Oh, that reminds me.

816

00:39:35.220 --> 00:39:37.220

I want to get a selfie of us before we go

817

00:39:37.220 --> 00:39:41.880

because I'm going to send them some messages

818

00:39:41.880 --> 00:39:44.500

about all the good times, you know, like the memories.

819

00:39:44.520 --> 00:39:45.480

This is amazing.

820

00:39:46.180 --> 00:39:50.540

There is a, it's a picture of the actual registration.

821

00:39:52.380 --> 00:39:54.100

And it was registered to you.

822

00:39:55.120 --> 00:39:57.260

So what I want you to do now, that's weird.

823

00:39:57.400 --> 00:39:59.280

I thought that was in my dad's name.

824

00:40:00.600 --> 00:40:02.620

What you're going to do now for me, Harry,

825

00:40:02.800 --> 00:40:05.620

is you're going to roll sanity.

826

00:40:07.600 --> 00:40:08.240

Oh, yeah, yeah.

827

00:40:09.920 --> 00:40:10.660

Sanity.

828

00:40:10.980 --> 00:40:12.300

Where is my sanity number?

829

00:40:12.320 --> 00:40:12.790

Uh-oh.

830

00:40:14.680 --> 00:40:15.520

Ooh, boy.

831

00:40:16.560 --> 00:40:17.860

Even odds here.

832

00:40:18.580 --> 00:40:19.020

Oof.

833

00:40:19.480 --> 00:40:20.760

85 over 50.

834

00:40:21.060 --> 00:40:22.380

Ooh, definitely not good.

835

00:40:22.800 --> 00:40:23.540

Yikes.

836

00:40:25.740 --> 00:40:28.410

That's what eternal optimism gets you.

837

00:40:31.440 --> 00:40:35.200

All of that buzzing, then the world goes quiet.

838

00:40:35.920 --> 00:40:38.300

Burns into your eyes, that registration.

839

00:40:40.700 --> 00:40:43.360

You don't remember this.

840

00:40:43.780 --> 00:40:45.420

Or did this really happen?

841

00:40:46.520 --> 00:40:48.760

Or maybe you've forgotten too much.

842

00:40:49.820 --> 00:40:55.760

So you're going to take 1d3 plus 1 damage to your sanity.

843

00:40:57.080 --> 00:40:58.100

Are you rolling that or am I?

844

00:40:58.100 --> 00:40:58.900

You're rolling it.

845

00:41:01.580 --> 00:41:03.060

Okay, 1d3.

846

00:41:03.520 --> 00:41:06.340

I forgot, that would be 2 plus 1.

847

00:41:07.960 --> 00:41:09.400

So that's 3 points of damage.

848

00:41:09.400 --> 00:41:12.720

3 points of damage down on your sanity.

849

00:41:13.620 --> 00:41:18.740

And just as a reminder, if you end up taking 6 or more in one shot,

850

00:41:18.900 --> 00:41:23.280

you go temporarily insane and I get to take over your character.

851

00:41:24.700 --> 00:41:26.160

So this will be good.

852

00:41:28.200 --> 00:41:32.180

You know, there's a lot of things that I did in my youth,

853

00:41:32.180 --> 00:41:37.340

but I don't remember ever having sex with a parrot, as they say.

854

00:41:38.060 --> 00:41:40.680

Well, you come back to it.

855

00:41:41.060 --> 00:41:43.840

That's my snark laugh through it.

856

00:41:43.860 --> 00:41:45.320

Oh, is it laugh through it?

857

00:41:45.400 --> 00:41:46.360

That's your snark?

858

00:41:46.360 --> 00:41:48.940

Laugh through the snark, laugh through the pain.

859

00:41:49.140 --> 00:41:50.040

I like that.

860

00:41:50.420 --> 00:41:55.020

So this whole idea of snark, which is a new category of character characteristic

861

00:41:55.860 --> 00:42:02.160

to define us as Gen Xers, is used to protect us from the psychic damage.

862

00:42:03.200 --> 00:42:08.300

And so you have an opportunity when you use snark to either recover some

863

00:42:08.300 --> 00:42:12.580

or make the psychic damage less or some other sort of benefit,

864

00:42:12.580 --> 00:42:13.900

but that wasn't very good.

865

00:42:13.900 --> 00:42:15.180

So I'm going to say you don't get any.

866

00:42:15.360 --> 00:42:16.980

You have to do better next time.

867

00:42:21.640 --> 00:42:23.400

Trying to figure out how to use this.

868

00:42:23.560 --> 00:42:24.160

Oh, yeah.

869

00:42:24.200 --> 00:42:25.500

So you have to think about this.

870

00:42:25.940 --> 00:42:29.080

Well, right about the time you come back to it,

871

00:42:29.080 --> 00:42:34.520

you hear Elissa yell out from the inside that there's a tow he's got to go pick up.

872

00:42:34.940 --> 00:42:37.940

And he tells you, he's like, hey, dude, how long are you in town for?

873

00:42:38.020 --> 00:42:39.040

Are you going to be here in town?

874

00:42:39.760 --> 00:42:40.420

Let's hook up.

875

00:42:40.680 --> 00:42:41.580

Yeah, I'll be around.

876

00:42:41.940 --> 00:42:42.280

I'm around.

877

00:42:42.400 --> 00:42:43.260

I'm going to do some hunting.

878

00:42:43.340 --> 00:42:44.320

I'm going to do some fishing.

879

00:42:44.780 --> 00:42:45.860

You want to go out?

880

00:42:45.860 --> 00:42:46.760

You want to go out someplace?

881

00:42:46.980 --> 00:42:48.740

You want to go out and hang out?

882

00:42:48.960 --> 00:42:49.500

Or you want to go?

883

00:42:49.700 --> 00:42:51.400

Meet me tonight at the Cuckoo's Nest.

884

00:42:52.500 --> 00:42:53.080

Cuckoo's Nest.

885

00:42:53.360 --> 00:42:53.940

Yeah, all right.

886

00:42:54.060 --> 00:42:54.240

Yep.

887

00:42:54.720 --> 00:42:59.060

It's a bar slash nightclub that's been in this town since the early 70s.

888

00:42:59.820 --> 00:43:00.760

I'll meet you there.

889

00:43:00.820 --> 00:43:03.400

I'm going to go take this run.

890

00:43:03.580 --> 00:43:05.880

Elissa will get you set up with a loaner or something.

891

00:43:06.380 --> 00:43:07.940

So we'll hook up later.

892

00:43:09.040 --> 00:43:09.440

Oh, OK.

893

00:43:09.460 --> 00:43:09.760

Yeah, right.

894

00:43:09.800 --> 00:43:11.040

I'll meet you at your table right now.

895

00:43:13.440 --> 00:43:14.160

Welcome, Harry.

896

00:43:14.300 --> 00:43:15.320

Freaking car.

897

00:43:19.400 --> 00:43:20.520

Oh, Bex.

898

00:43:20.840 --> 00:43:21.860

Bex, Bex, Bex.

899

00:43:23.100 --> 00:43:23.900

Bex is next.

900

00:43:24.200 --> 00:43:25.000

All right.

901

00:43:26.020 --> 00:43:26.640

Bex Lex.

902

00:43:26.640 --> 00:43:31.460

So Bex, the thing is here is that your mother is in the memory care facility here,

903

00:43:32.220 --> 00:43:36.760

which kind of requires you to come back to this shithole like every quarter.

904

00:43:38.480 --> 00:43:44.080

So this is not the, you know, you haven't just pulled up stakes and left and not come

905

00:43:44.080 --> 00:43:44.900

back in 30 years.

906

00:43:44.920 --> 00:43:47.460

You're back here probably more frequently than everybody else.

907

00:43:48.060 --> 00:43:52.900

But I think you could measure your duration in minutes when you're back here.

908

00:43:52.900 --> 00:43:57.740

You could drive it blind back, you know, driving south from Cleveland.

909

00:43:58.940 --> 00:44:00.520

You've made this trip so many times.

910

00:44:00.940 --> 00:44:02.880

It doesn't rattle you anymore.

911

00:44:03.060 --> 00:44:05.960

It's like just a slow toothache now.

912

00:44:06.300 --> 00:44:07.500

Same shit, different day.

913

00:44:08.340 --> 00:44:09.700

Yeah, but just gnaws at you.

914

00:44:09.960 --> 00:44:11.140

But that air is a furnace.

915

00:44:11.360 --> 00:44:14.980

It's thick and metallic, pressing down on you, oppressive.

916

00:44:15.660 --> 00:44:18.880

It's that bleached white sky, sort of blue around the edges.

917

00:44:19.440 --> 00:44:20.540

But that's about all.

918

00:44:20.540 --> 00:44:25.480

That yellow-white, it's like a blanket, just baking everything underneath of there.

919

00:44:25.680 --> 00:44:27.240

And beside you in the car is your mother.

920

00:44:28.080 --> 00:44:31.220

She's there fidgeting in the passenger seat.

921

00:44:31.420 --> 00:44:35.760

Her moustache, Sandra Lexington, 84 now, frail.

922

00:44:36.080 --> 00:44:38.840

And even in this heat, she's got a quilted sweater on.

923

00:44:39.720 --> 00:44:45.140

Her lips are kind of moving silently, maybe half hymns, broken fragments,

924

00:44:45.600 --> 00:44:46.460

tumbling out of her mouth.

925

00:44:46.460 --> 00:44:48.780

Did I tell you about the time I met the Reverend?

926

00:44:48.780 --> 00:44:51.200

Was it Sunday today?

927

00:44:52.760 --> 00:44:55.480

Do you still work at that funeral place, Rebecca?

928

00:44:57.360 --> 00:45:00.160

Kind of lands like a bruise a little bit.

929

00:45:00.460 --> 00:45:03.910

Just that poking, that sub-epidermal bruise.

930

00:45:05.880 --> 00:45:08.100

Sandra was never really a mother to you.

931

00:45:08.100 --> 00:45:10.080

She was more like a pulpit with legs.

932

00:45:11.360 --> 00:45:14.300

Holier than thou, always ready to cut you down in the name of God.

933

00:45:14.880 --> 00:45:17.700

The church was her weapon and Pastor Bob was her hammer.

934

00:45:18.260 --> 00:45:19.680

Good old Pastor Bob.

935

00:45:20.500 --> 00:45:22.180

He practically lived at your house.

936

00:45:22.500 --> 00:45:25.580

Bible in hand, that smug fucking smile on his face.

937

00:45:27.060 --> 00:45:30.780

Cornering you in the kitchen, in the hallway, goddamn bedroom.

938

00:45:31.480 --> 00:45:31.940

Creepy.

939

00:45:32.760 --> 00:45:35.720

Your mother'd stand be standing right beside him, right behind him.

940

00:45:35.920 --> 00:45:40.380

She was always at heel, just nodding like you were the devil they'd been called to drive out.

941

00:45:40.900 --> 00:45:42.480

That's the furnace you grew up in.

942

00:45:42.880 --> 00:45:44.460

I'd like to hit him with my car.

943

00:45:45.780 --> 00:45:47.480

Hell yeah, you never forgot that burn.

944

00:45:47.480 --> 00:45:49.460

You loath this town.

945

00:45:50.160 --> 00:45:52.840

Loathe it the way it seeps into you every time it comes back.

946

00:45:53.020 --> 00:45:54.780

You built your life in Cleveland, right?

947

00:45:54.780 --> 00:45:56.540

You carved out this place.

948

00:45:56.780 --> 00:45:59.600

You're someone who's stronger, who's louder, untouchable.

949

00:45:59.960 --> 00:46:02.760

But Ashwood still smells like 1992 back here.

950

00:46:02.920 --> 00:46:08.360

Cut grass and exhaust and rusty chain link fences and basketball hoops with no nets.

951

00:46:08.980 --> 00:46:11.680

Voices that always told you to shut up and sit down.

952

00:46:12.320 --> 00:46:13.160

But you never did.

953

00:46:13.800 --> 00:46:15.020

You're the one who stood up.

954

00:46:15.340 --> 00:46:16.160

You squared off.

955

00:46:16.320 --> 00:46:16.960

Damn straight.

956

00:46:16.960 --> 00:46:18.800

You're the one who screamed back.

957

00:46:19.440 --> 00:46:22.440

Velveteen, your band on stage, the stage that barely held together.

958

00:46:22.560 --> 00:46:28.120

It's sweat and lipstick and rage drowning out the silence of this fricking town

959

00:46:28.120 --> 00:46:29.540

that tried to bury you.

960

00:46:29.920 --> 00:46:30.720

And you're still here.

961

00:46:30.800 --> 00:46:31.660

You're a survivor.

962

00:46:32.600 --> 00:46:35.560

Did you pull into a lot of Ashwood Pines memory care?

963

00:46:36.240 --> 00:46:42.760

And this is a reasonably, let's say newish building in the last 30, 40 years.

964

00:46:42.900 --> 00:46:44.280

But it's on the grounds of the old.

965

00:46:44.280 --> 00:46:51.660

There used to be a small, private Catholic college here that's long since been abandoned.

966

00:46:52.780 --> 00:46:54.260

And it's on those grounds.

967

00:46:54.720 --> 00:46:58.260

It's kind of tan brick, fake shutters, cube-shaped.

968

00:46:58.820 --> 00:47:01.620

Tries to pretend nothing ever changes here because, I mean, frankly,

969

00:47:01.860 --> 00:47:04.600

for the people inside, they wouldn't be able to tell the difference anyway.

970

00:47:05.300 --> 00:47:11.100

The heat is radiating off the parking lot, suffocating pulses, pulsing waves,

971

00:47:11.960 --> 00:47:14.680

blurring the building into something unreal.

972

00:47:15.420 --> 00:47:18.660

Your mom's voice crackles beside you, cackling.

973

00:47:18.800 --> 00:47:20.740

She doesn't remember you paid for this place.

974

00:47:21.220 --> 00:47:22.660

She doesn't remember your band.

975

00:47:22.760 --> 00:47:26.520

She doesn't remember your fights, your survival, your struggles.

976

00:47:27.540 --> 00:47:30.040

But some fragment still remembers to hate you.

977

00:47:30.260 --> 00:47:34.780

Your tattoos and your defiance and the ways that you exist without apologies.

978

00:47:35.920 --> 00:47:38.680

Get her out and you walk her inside and that's when it hits you.

979

00:47:38.680 --> 00:47:43.800

The air, the smell of microwave peas and bleach and processed hope

980

00:47:43.800 --> 00:47:47.280

place smells where people are warehoused until the world gives up on them.

981

00:47:47.880 --> 00:47:50.580

The walls hum with the air conditioning, but you're still sweating.

982

00:47:51.300 --> 00:47:53.160

This is not going to stop for a little while.

983

00:47:53.240 --> 00:47:54.560

Still suffocating.

984

00:47:55.140 --> 00:47:57.420

No matter how cool they keep it in these hallways,

985

00:47:57.740 --> 00:48:02.320

Ashwood itself is too hot and too heavy and too hungry.

986

00:48:03.280 --> 00:48:04.900

Something it just got to get away from.

987

00:48:05.000 --> 00:48:05.900

It's fucking hell.

988

00:48:06.520 --> 00:48:06.960

Indeed.

989

00:48:07.520 --> 00:48:13.100

But halfway to your mom's room, she suddenly stops and grips your arm

990

00:48:13.100 --> 00:48:17.580

tighter than she should, like old, gnarled, 84-year-old talons.

991

00:48:18.320 --> 00:48:19.920

She draws herself up straight.

992

00:48:20.500 --> 00:48:21.640

Her voice sharpens.

993

00:48:21.940 --> 00:48:23.040

Her shoulders go back.

994

00:48:23.340 --> 00:48:26.580

Her eyes clear and she looks at you dead in the eyes and said,

995

00:48:26.620 --> 00:48:29.560

Rebecca, she came here.

996

00:48:30.940 --> 00:48:35.640

And she said, the door, that door is still open.

997

00:48:36.820 --> 00:48:40.720

She's got this bit of a sneer on her face, a little bit of indignation.

998

00:48:41.160 --> 00:48:42.200

And then you just see it.

999

00:48:42.200 --> 00:48:46.620

You see the curtain come back over and her shoulders droop again

1000

00:48:46.620 --> 00:48:48.940

and the glaze on her eyes.

1001

00:48:49.180 --> 00:48:51.900

And she released your arm like she was never even there.

1002

00:48:52.460 --> 00:48:55.320

There's a nurse's station that you're passing by on your right.

1003

00:48:55.460 --> 00:48:56.420

And there's a nurse.

1004

00:48:56.680 --> 00:48:59.300

She's got permed hair, friendly draw.

1005

00:48:59.380 --> 00:49:02.260

She waves you down and you know this is Mary Sue Allen.

1006

00:49:02.500 --> 00:49:04.920

She's an old classmate wearing pale blue scrubs now.

1007

00:49:04.920 --> 00:49:11.060

She says, Bex, are you back here because of Amy?

1008

00:49:12.280 --> 00:49:12.840

Sadly.

1009

00:49:14.080 --> 00:49:15.540

You know what, Amy?

1010

00:49:16.000 --> 00:49:20.340

She used to come in here and sit with your mama, hours sometimes.

1011

00:49:20.940 --> 00:49:23.800

Always had a Bible in her lap asking about the family,

1012

00:49:24.740 --> 00:49:28.060

about Wilbur, the old farm, weird stuff.

1013

00:49:29.340 --> 00:49:31.580

I swear some nights, though, I'd hear her footsteps

1014

00:49:31.580 --> 00:49:33.780

after I lucked up like she would never left.

1015

00:49:34.920 --> 00:49:39.620

She just kind of tuts at herself and turns around and walks away.

1016

00:49:40.280 --> 00:49:40.860

Yeah.

1017

00:49:41.860 --> 00:49:43.440

Yeah, but now you're in your mom's room.

1018

00:49:43.560 --> 00:49:44.800

You get her back to your room.

1019

00:49:45.180 --> 00:49:47.440

And this room is dark.

1020

00:49:47.860 --> 00:49:48.980

Shades are partially drawn.

1021

00:49:49.120 --> 00:49:50.580

The light is streaking through.

1022

00:49:50.760 --> 00:49:54.300

It's like casting gray bars onto the high traffic carpet.

1023

00:49:55.300 --> 00:49:59.980

And it smells like lilac body powder and dust in here.

1024

00:50:00.940 --> 00:50:02.100

It's like my old house.

1025

00:50:02.100 --> 00:50:06.820

Yeah, Sandra, she sinks into a recliner with a bit of a soft side

1026

00:50:06.820 --> 00:50:09.000

kind of still tutting and murmuring to herself.

1027

00:50:09.580 --> 00:50:13.360

That AM radio that's always fricking on in this place.

1028

00:50:13.660 --> 00:50:16.400

And you can hear that annoying preacher in the background.

1029

00:50:20.710 --> 00:50:21.790

Kingdom of God.

1030

00:50:31.410 --> 00:50:33.630

Very thin AM static.

1031

00:50:34.490 --> 00:50:35.330

Roll me a spot hidden.

1032

00:50:36.430 --> 00:50:37.190

All right.

1033

00:50:42.760 --> 00:50:44.100

60 out of 60.

1034

00:50:44.300 --> 00:50:45.440

Ooh, well, that's a pass.

1035

00:50:46.260 --> 00:50:47.420

I might see something.

1036

00:50:47.680 --> 00:50:48.680

That's a pass.

1037

00:50:49.740 --> 00:50:51.360

You might see something.

1038

00:50:51.680 --> 00:50:53.320

Indeed, you do.

1039

00:50:53.700 --> 00:50:54.980

And let me share it with you.

1040

00:50:56.020 --> 00:50:58.280

And now all these things like artifacts and whatnot

1041

00:50:58.280 --> 00:51:00.960

that I'm going to show you guys will be in our,

1042

00:51:01.160 --> 00:51:06.180

I will load up to our Discord files so that you can see them.

1043

00:51:06.740 --> 00:51:10.240

So as you're tucking your mother in,

1044

00:51:10.700 --> 00:51:14.800

putting the Shaw quilt or whatever up around her,

1045

00:51:14.800 --> 00:51:15.960

you see a Bible.

1046

00:51:17.060 --> 00:51:22.020

And you see something sticking out of it, out of the corner,

1047

00:51:22.240 --> 00:51:26.280

like this old piece of looks like tattered napkin.

1048

00:51:26.880 --> 00:51:27.820

And you pull it out.

1049

00:51:28.480 --> 00:51:30.840

She's always collecting bits of crap.

1050

00:51:31.280 --> 00:51:32.940

Always collecting bits of crap.

1051

00:51:34.260 --> 00:51:38.640

It's an old napkin, kind of yellowed from the cuckoo's nest.

1052

00:51:39.480 --> 00:51:41.680

And there's something scribbled on the bottom of a number

1053

00:51:41.680 --> 00:51:44.980

and it looks like water soaked marker.

1054

00:51:45.940 --> 00:51:47.060

551, 551.

1055

00:51:47.740 --> 00:51:49.820

What is 551?

1056

00:51:50.600 --> 00:51:51.120

Weird.

1057

00:51:52.140 --> 00:51:53.940

I'm dropping things, but I'm writing it down.

1058

00:51:54.520 --> 00:51:57.680

You know your mother hasn't been to any bar, let alone that one.

1059

00:51:58.540 --> 00:52:01.340

Maybe in her senility, she's decided to get laid.

1060

00:52:02.160 --> 00:52:02.660

Oof.

1061

00:52:02.900 --> 00:52:06.980

As all this starts to sink in, the room seems to like inhale around you.

1062

00:52:07.940 --> 00:52:08.580

Roll for sanity.

1063

00:52:10.120 --> 00:52:12.100

37 out of 65.

1064

00:52:12.480 --> 00:52:12.900

Oh, nice.

1065

00:52:13.240 --> 00:52:13.900

Well done.

1066

00:52:15.680 --> 00:52:20.040

So that sensation, the room inhaling on you breaks up like fog.

1067

00:52:21.360 --> 00:52:26.480

That feeling of like chewing on aluminum foil still tingles in your fillings.

1068

00:52:27.520 --> 00:52:28.280

Take one point.

1069

00:52:29.540 --> 00:52:31.280

No place like fucking home.

1070

00:52:32.360 --> 00:52:35.140

You turn on your heels with a huff and barely,

1071

00:52:35.140 --> 00:52:37.760

barely controlled disgust.

1072

00:52:37.760 --> 00:52:40.820

Turn on your heels and get the hell out of this place.

1073

00:52:41.260 --> 00:52:42.620

You've got an appointment to get to.

1074

00:52:43.660 --> 00:52:43.700

Sadly.

1075

00:52:44.900 --> 00:52:45.340

Sadly.

1076

00:52:46.760 --> 00:52:47.100

Oz.

1077

00:52:54.080 --> 00:52:56.680

Oh, I had a really good time writing this one.

1078

00:52:57.280 --> 00:52:58.360

Let's do it.

1079

00:53:00.940 --> 00:53:06.940

And by the way, all of these have at least some fragment of my own personal past in them.

1080

00:53:06.960 --> 00:53:08.140

You got blinded by a tree?

1081

00:53:08.300 --> 00:53:09.320

I did, yes.

1082

00:53:11.220 --> 00:53:15.140

See, that's the fucking dangers of hugging trees.

1083

00:53:15.340 --> 00:53:17.120

And an electric fence, but we won't go there.

1084

00:53:18.100 --> 00:53:25.000

Your 89 Dodge Ram here, Oz's, growls into the crack lot of the 7-Eleven in town.

1085

00:53:26.080 --> 00:53:27.200

Engine straining.

1086

00:53:27.860 --> 00:53:30.300

That heat, white sky, no clouds.

1087

00:53:31.420 --> 00:53:33.700

Air so thick, feels like it's coating your lungs.

1088

00:53:34.140 --> 00:53:35.360

Fuck this town.

1089

00:53:35.880 --> 00:53:38.700

The heat doesn't just weigh on you, it like presses you flat.

1090

00:53:39.300 --> 00:53:40.680

Gravity's increased here.

1091

00:53:41.080 --> 00:53:44.120

You've felt it before in the desert, in Iraq.

1092

00:53:44.940 --> 00:53:47.880

The kind of heat where nothing moves unless it has to.

1093

00:53:48.480 --> 00:53:50.280

Danger waits behind every blank.

1094

00:53:51.060 --> 00:53:53.180

To cut your engine and that truck keeps ticking.

1095

00:53:53.480 --> 00:53:56.480

Tick, tick, tick, tick, tick, tick, ping, ping, ping.

1096

00:53:57.500 --> 00:54:01.060

And for a second, just a second, that lot shimmers like a mirage.

1097

00:54:02.000 --> 00:54:04.720

This corner of the state though, Ashwood, you've avoided it.

1098

00:54:04.960 --> 00:54:05.520

Consciously?

1099

00:54:05.900 --> 00:54:06.520

Maybe not.

1100

00:54:07.120 --> 00:54:07.920

But maybe did.

1101

00:54:07.920 --> 00:54:09.880

Yeah, totally.

1102

00:54:10.400 --> 00:54:12.500

Screw this place.

1103

00:54:12.960 --> 00:54:17.340

Driving across the state as a PI, gigs from Toledo to Cincinnati,

1104

00:54:17.440 --> 00:54:19.240

you've never stepped foot back here.

1105

00:54:19.280 --> 00:54:20.520

Not since you were a kid.

1106

00:54:21.000 --> 00:54:22.800

Not since that goddamn dome.

1107

00:54:24.100 --> 00:54:26.880

That geodesic dome, your parents called home.

1108

00:54:27.240 --> 00:54:30.600

The ones with no doors or walls, just patchouli smoke.

1109

00:54:31.020 --> 00:54:34.540

And the churn of, quote, guests who never left.

1110

00:54:35.040 --> 00:54:37.200

Your mom, a free-loving philosophy.

1111

00:54:37.420 --> 00:54:40.140

Your dad's like paranoia about government thought police.

1112

00:54:41.100 --> 00:54:43.580

Order never lived there in that dome with you guys, right?

1113

00:54:43.600 --> 00:54:45.420

That's why you stood up against bullies.

1114

00:54:45.540 --> 00:54:47.500

Why you and Becks found each other back then.

1115

00:54:47.620 --> 00:54:49.880

Two kids who wouldn't shut up and wouldn't lie down.

1116

00:54:52.040 --> 00:54:53.220

Then there was that fire.

1117

00:54:53.780 --> 00:54:57.580

That weekend you were gone, off at your aunt house, or so you remember.

1118

00:54:58.860 --> 00:55:00.160

Or what you've been told to remember.

1119

00:55:00.880 --> 00:55:02.920

By the time you came back, that dome was ashes.

1120

00:55:02.920 --> 00:55:06.240

Your parents chalked it up to enemies or karma or both.

1121

00:55:07.180 --> 00:55:08.740

But that story never sat right.

1122

00:55:09.120 --> 00:55:10.260

Never smelled really right.

1123

00:55:11.060 --> 00:55:12.380

But it rides with you even now.

1124

00:55:12.880 --> 00:55:13.380

Sticky.

1125

00:55:13.960 --> 00:55:14.460

Incomplete.

1126

00:55:15.200 --> 00:55:17.100

Something you think about when you're back here in this place.

1127

00:55:18.160 --> 00:55:21.820

As you step out of the truck, the lots crunching beneath your feet,

1128

00:55:22.240 --> 00:55:23.020

beneath your boots.

1129

00:55:24.060 --> 00:55:27.560

Sweats burning the edges of your scar down your arm and your neck.

1130

00:55:28.460 --> 00:55:29.720

Reminds you of another fire.

1131

00:55:30.120 --> 00:55:30.980

Another betrayal.

1132

00:55:31.100 --> 00:55:31.580

Order.

1133

00:55:31.940 --> 00:55:32.680

That fuel truck.

1134

00:55:32.920 --> 00:55:34.920

The blast that ended your army career.

1135

00:55:35.520 --> 00:55:39.000

Stripped half of your body raw and left you with a P.I. license

1136

00:55:39.000 --> 00:55:40.760

and an instinct for finding truth.

1137

00:55:41.520 --> 00:55:45.740

But the 7-Eleven, it squats in front of you like nothing ever changed.

1138

00:55:46.140 --> 00:55:47.420

It still smells the same.

1139

00:55:48.380 --> 00:55:49.700

Greasy roller dogs.

1140

00:55:50.360 --> 00:55:50.880

Sugar.

1141

00:55:51.920 --> 00:55:53.000

Cigarettes and dust.

1142

00:55:54.000 --> 00:55:59.960

You pull open the glass door and this freezer air just hits you and stings you.

1143

00:56:00.640 --> 00:56:01.780

It's too cold inside.

1144

00:56:01.940 --> 00:56:02.800

Too hot outside.

1145

00:56:02.920 --> 00:56:04.180

There's no balance.

1146

00:56:05.660 --> 00:56:06.580

Diametrically opposed.

1147

00:56:07.780 --> 00:56:13.340

There's a cutout, believe it or not, of Will Smith in the corner advertising Independence Day.

1148

00:56:13.680 --> 00:56:16.520

Behind a bin of VHS tapes that say 10 for a dollar.

1149

00:56:17.000 --> 00:56:21.580

There's stacks of Jolt Cola that don't look like anybody's touched them in decades.

1150

00:56:22.260 --> 00:56:24.960

Not a Pepsi in sight, but plenty of Shasta and Faygo.

1151

00:56:26.220 --> 00:56:28.960

But you hear it before you see it.

1152

00:56:31.810 --> 00:56:33.570

Is it the only thing that's still alive?

1153

00:56:35.620 --> 00:56:37.300

Wizard needs food badly.

1154

00:56:39.420 --> 00:56:43.800

It's the old gauntlet game sitting in the corner.

1155

00:56:45.020 --> 00:56:46.740

I've not seen such bravery.

1156

00:56:48.060 --> 00:56:48.840

The time capsule.

1157

00:56:49.380 --> 00:56:49.820

This place.

1158

00:56:50.460 --> 00:56:52.600

It's a museum or a mausoleum.

1159

00:56:53.140 --> 00:56:54.700

The next thing you notice is a woman.

1160

00:56:55.080 --> 00:56:55.700

Tina Jaroski.

1161

00:56:57.200 --> 00:56:58.460

Leaning on the counter.

1162

00:56:58.780 --> 00:56:59.680

All painted up.

1163

00:56:59.760 --> 00:57:00.500

Too much makeup.

1164

00:57:01.180 --> 00:57:02.040

Clings to her face.

1165

00:57:02.220 --> 00:57:03.680

Party girl swagger at 52.

1166

00:57:03.680 --> 00:57:05.300

She was wild back then.

1167

00:57:05.300 --> 00:57:06.100

She's still wild.

1168

00:57:06.380 --> 00:57:07.840

She doesn't recognize you, though, Oz.

1169

00:57:08.880 --> 00:57:11.600

Maybe she does, but she pretends like she doesn't.

1170

00:57:11.840 --> 00:57:13.240

Either way, she's going to flirt with you.

1171

00:57:13.620 --> 00:57:16.660

No hesitation, like it's muscle memory for her.

1172

00:57:17.000 --> 00:57:21.200

As you pass the coolers, walking around the edge, you can pick up something to drink.

1173

00:57:21.540 --> 00:57:23.540

Pick out your favorite flavor of Faygo.

1174

00:57:23.900 --> 00:57:26.760

You pass the coolers, cold seeping into your arm.

1175

00:57:27.880 --> 00:57:30.760

And your eyes cut back over to the arcade cabinet.

1176

00:57:31.660 --> 00:57:33.480

Somebody's standing there playing that game.

1177

00:57:34.500 --> 00:57:36.000

It's a skinny kid.

1178

00:57:36.740 --> 00:57:37.260

Tallish.

1179

00:57:37.560 --> 00:57:38.260

Red hair.

1180

00:57:39.180 --> 00:57:40.640

Shoulders hunched in concentration.

1181

00:57:42.360 --> 00:57:43.080

That's you, Oz.

1182

00:57:43.620 --> 00:57:44.600

It's you at 14.

1183

00:57:45.380 --> 00:57:48.940

I'm going to kind of shake my head and try and get that image out of my brain.

1184

00:57:49.320 --> 00:57:50.340

I want you to roll for sanity.

1185

00:57:50.700 --> 00:57:51.680

Of course you do.

1186

00:57:54.800 --> 00:57:55.840

Oh, 25.

1187

00:57:56.220 --> 00:57:56.840

Out of what?

1188

00:57:58.480 --> 00:57:59.480

Out of 65.

1189

00:57:59.660 --> 00:58:02.700

See, the out of is the important part because, you know,

1190

00:58:02.700 --> 00:58:05.600

don't try and woo me with your one number.

1191

00:58:07.360 --> 00:58:12.340

Well, you shake your head a bit, you rub your eyes, blink,

1192

00:58:13.700 --> 00:58:15.600

but your pulse is still skipping, man.

1193

00:58:15.980 --> 00:58:22.440

For a second, you swear that screen whispered your name.

1194

00:58:23.840 --> 00:58:24.960

But now it's back.

1195

00:58:26.520 --> 00:58:27.380

Sprite's flashing.

1196

00:58:29.040 --> 00:58:30.140

Wizard needs food badly.

1197

00:58:37.890 --> 00:58:38.850

It's just too much.

1198

00:58:38.850 --> 00:58:41.030

Being here is too much, right?

1199

00:58:41.250 --> 00:58:42.070

To hell with your drink.

1200

00:58:42.630 --> 00:58:43.390

You spin on your heels.

1201

00:58:43.550 --> 00:58:46.130

You rush out the door, kneeling, knocking on the smaller guy over.

1202

00:58:46.150 --> 00:58:47.470

He's just coming in the other way.

1203

00:58:49.540 --> 00:58:51.520

You got an appointment to get to, Oz.

1204

00:58:51.520 --> 00:58:53.020

You're going to get the hell out of town.

1205

00:58:54.340 --> 00:58:55.600

Welcome back to Ashwood.

1206

00:58:58.760 --> 00:59:01.780

This place, I should have stayed in Cleveland.

1207

00:59:02.860 --> 00:59:08.300

And last but not least, Lance, assuming that Lance can stay connected

1208

00:59:08.300 --> 00:59:10.200

for long enough for me to get through his session.

1209

00:59:10.840 --> 00:59:12.120

I think I'm good now.

1210

00:59:12.680 --> 00:59:13.540

You think you're good now?

1211

00:59:13.660 --> 00:59:13.960

I think so.

1212

00:59:13.960 --> 00:59:17.080

You can't blame it on having any kids at home chewing up bandwidth?

1213

00:59:17.540 --> 00:59:17.800

No.

1214

00:59:18.780 --> 00:59:19.620

No, no.

1215

00:59:20.000 --> 00:59:20.640

Were you streaming?

1216

00:59:21.360 --> 00:59:23.380

Are you uploading porn or downloading porn?

1217

00:59:23.620 --> 00:59:26.000

A little of both at the same time.

1218

00:59:26.200 --> 00:59:26.920

That's the problem.

1219

00:59:26.980 --> 00:59:27.920

There's only one pipe, buddy.

1220

00:59:28.100 --> 00:59:30.140

It's the live stream that's slowing it down.

1221

00:59:31.620 --> 00:59:32.500

Yeah, so.

1222

00:59:34.200 --> 00:59:35.900

The only fans need him.

1223

00:59:36.040 --> 00:59:36.360

Exactly.

1224

00:59:36.400 --> 00:59:37.260

That's why his camera's off.

1225

00:59:37.260 --> 00:59:39.080

He's got his other camera on right now.

1226

00:59:40.740 --> 00:59:41.620

Yeah, yeah.

1227

00:59:41.700 --> 00:59:42.960

I think I only have one camera.

1228

00:59:42.960 --> 00:59:43.540

That's funny.

1229

00:59:43.800 --> 00:59:44.240

Right.

1230

00:59:44.280 --> 00:59:45.760

Just go to [harrybears.com](http://harrybears.com).

1231

00:59:46.020 --> 00:59:48.300

No, don't go to [harrybears.com](http://harrybears.com).

1232

00:59:49.420 --> 00:59:50.760

Don't do that.

1233

00:59:50.940 --> 00:59:51.720

Oh, my.

1234

00:59:53.060 --> 00:59:55.260

No, we don't need that.

1235

00:59:55.440 --> 00:59:57.300

If you do that, you will have to make a sanity check.

1236

00:59:57.300 --> 00:59:58.120

Yeah, exactly.

1237

01:00:00.540 --> 01:00:03.220

Well, for sanity, 10d20.

1238

01:00:03.360 --> 01:00:05.940

First, you have to make a stupidity check if you do.

1239

01:00:06.220 --> 01:00:08.700

If you start typing that in, it's like, whoop, you failed.

1240

01:00:08.700 --> 01:00:09.860

Tastefulness check.

1241

01:00:10.300 --> 01:00:11.100

Tastefulness check.

1242

01:00:11.240 --> 01:00:12.340

Yeah, we don't do that around here.

1243

01:00:12.440 --> 01:00:13.060

You're in the wrong game.

1244

01:00:13.340 --> 01:00:14.360

Well, hairy bears are tasty.

1245

01:00:14.360 --> 01:00:14.900

That's not this game.

1246

01:00:15.000 --> 01:00:16.140

Hairy bears are tasty?

1247

01:00:16.520 --> 01:00:17.320

No, wrong.

1248

01:00:18.420 --> 01:00:23.040

OK, leave it up to we get to Greg and everything goes off the rails.

1249

01:00:24.660 --> 01:00:25.040

Of course.

1250

01:00:25.380 --> 01:00:26.980

So let's get to this one.

1251

01:00:28.000 --> 01:00:32.940

So Lance, your Mercedes S-Class glides quietly into the outskirts of Ashwood.

1252

01:00:33.280 --> 01:00:34.480

Nice, chilly cabin.

1253

01:00:35.080 --> 01:00:36.480

Engines purring smooth.

1254

01:00:36.480 --> 01:00:39.300

It's like a cocoon of cool air around you.

1255

01:00:39.420 --> 01:00:40.680

It's a furnace outside.

1256

01:00:41.300 --> 01:00:42.760

It's that bleached white sky.

1257

01:00:43.540 --> 01:00:45.800

Houses sagging underneath of it.

1258

01:00:46.180 --> 01:00:47.180

Rusty fences.

1259

01:00:48.500 --> 01:00:49.640

Husks of old factories.

1260

01:00:50.120 --> 01:00:51.920

The Union Carbide you ride past.

1261

01:00:52.940 --> 01:00:55.760

Carcass gaping where windows used to be.

1262

01:00:56.020 --> 01:00:58.640

Bell crankshaft leans, sagging behind fences.

1263

01:01:00.260 --> 01:01:02.440

Signs faded to almost like hieroglyphics.

1264

01:01:03.060 --> 01:01:06.520

This is the kingdom you were born into, Lancelot Mackayne.

1265

01:01:08.200 --> 01:01:08.760

Congratulations.

1266

01:01:08.860 --> 01:01:10.760

Your father named you after a knight.

1267

01:01:11.260 --> 01:01:13.180

After the glory of Arthurian legend.

1268

01:01:13.740 --> 01:01:17.840

He dreamed of chivalry, of scholarship, and of greatness.

1269

01:01:18.520 --> 01:01:20.920

And he raised you under the weight of that myth.

1270

01:01:21.900 --> 01:01:26.460

That when you chose Pratt Falls instead of prophecies, he never let you forget it.

1271

01:01:26.780 --> 01:01:28.080

A clown instead of a knight.

1272

01:01:28.660 --> 01:01:29.940

A joke instead of a son.

1273

01:01:29.940 --> 01:01:33.140

His voice still rides with you.

1274

01:01:34.000 --> 01:01:35.240

Every word correction.

1275

01:01:35.420 --> 01:01:37.780

Every phrase dripping in disappointment.

1276

01:01:38.760 --> 01:01:40.900

Pedantic, haughty, and cutting.

1277

01:01:42.300 --> 01:01:44.860

But even now, your Mercedes beneath you.

1278

01:01:45.780 --> 01:01:47.040

Chain of escape rooms.

1279

01:01:49.280 --> 01:01:49.740

Sorry.

1280

01:01:49.980 --> 01:01:50.920

Chain of escape rooms.

1281

01:01:51.040 --> 01:01:51.640

Very serious.

1282

01:01:52.040 --> 01:01:53.740

Very serious, serious business here.

1283

01:01:54.240 --> 01:01:56.460

Chain of escape rooms right across the country.

1284

01:01:56.780 --> 01:01:57.640

Money in the bank.

1285

01:01:57.960 --> 01:01:59.120

You can still hear them.

1286

01:01:59.120 --> 01:02:00.840

You can still hear them.

1287

01:02:01.140 --> 01:02:02.320

A franchise, Lancelot.

1288

01:02:03.080 --> 01:02:04.040

Carnival games.

1289

01:02:04.700 --> 01:02:07.420

While you bear the name of the burden of history.

1290

01:02:08.420 --> 01:02:10.180

And even now, you still feel it.

1291

01:02:10.360 --> 01:02:11.760

He never asked if you were happy.

1292

01:02:11.880 --> 01:02:13.660

He never asked if you were proud.

1293

01:02:14.440 --> 01:02:16.800

And Ashwood, his voice is louder than your own.

1294

01:02:17.340 --> 01:02:17.820

Still.

1295

01:02:18.580 --> 01:02:21.080

But you slide into this familiar suburbia of 1992.

1296

01:02:21.540 --> 01:02:22.280

Frozen and amber.

1297

01:02:22.820 --> 01:02:25.000

And you pull into the 7-Eleven parking lot.

1298

01:02:25.620 --> 01:02:26.480

Whispering to a stop.

1299

01:02:26.480 --> 01:02:31.480

Car is way too polished and way too posh for this parking lot, let me tell you.

1300

01:02:31.680 --> 01:02:35.120

Get out of the car, you notice there's like a pack of local tufts.

1301

01:02:35.120 --> 01:02:38.240

You know, teens, early 20s, loitering by the door.

1302

01:02:39.680 --> 01:02:40.080

Skinny.

1303

01:02:40.240 --> 01:02:40.920

A little too skinny.

1304

01:02:41.340 --> 01:02:42.920

A little too restless of the eyes.

1305

01:02:43.460 --> 01:02:45.900

In this heat, one of them's wearing a goddamn jean jacket.

1306

01:02:46.180 --> 01:02:47.320

Sometimes you just gotta.

1307

01:02:47.660 --> 01:02:48.540

It's all about the cool.

1308

01:02:48.780 --> 01:02:50.080

Can you still find jean jackets?

1309

01:02:50.300 --> 01:02:50.940

You can.

1310

01:02:51.020 --> 01:02:52.060

I was going to wear mine today.

1311

01:02:52.120 --> 01:02:53.240

Maybe I'll wear mine next time.

1312

01:02:53.600 --> 01:02:54.960

It'll be Fat Man in a little coat.

1313

01:02:55.040 --> 01:02:55.940

Boot barn has tons.

1314

01:02:55.940 --> 01:03:00.220

Nowadays, all the kids are in their stupid hoodies in the middle of summer in Texas.

1315

01:03:01.120 --> 01:03:04.520

Well, these tufts, their eyes are darting around like trapped animals.

1316

01:03:05.080 --> 01:03:09.060

One scratches out a rash that's climbing up out of his t-shirt, up his neck.

1317

01:03:09.300 --> 01:03:12.120

It's red and thin, stringy rash.

1318

01:03:12.820 --> 01:03:16.060

They follow you, their eyes, suspicion, hunger.

1319

01:03:17.000 --> 01:03:20.560

Looking back at your car, looking at you, looking back at your car, looking at you.

1320

01:03:21.320 --> 01:03:23.940

But you go into the 7-Eleven, open that door.

1321

01:03:24.760 --> 01:03:26.880

Inside the air is, again, too cold.

1322

01:03:27.200 --> 01:03:29.080

Fluorescence are buzzing and flickering overhead.

1323

01:03:29.180 --> 01:03:34.520

That fryer grease and old cigarette smell and that god-awful cotton candy air freshener

1324

01:03:34.520 --> 01:03:38.220

that they squirt out of this place all sort of mingles together with the dust.

1325

01:03:38.460 --> 01:03:39.720

Like it's been here since high school.

1326

01:03:39.920 --> 01:03:40.760

Probably has.

1327

01:03:41.240 --> 01:03:42.440

Nothing ever changes, really.

1328

01:03:43.040 --> 01:03:46.840

And then somebody shouts from behind you, no fucking way.

1329

01:03:47.100 --> 01:03:48.240

Lance McLean.

1330

01:03:49.060 --> 01:03:50.980

You turn around, you see Tina Dorosky.

1331

01:03:51.760 --> 01:03:52.840

She's leaning on the counter.

1332

01:03:52.840 --> 01:03:55.540

And for a moment, just the gears slide off.

1333

01:03:55.660 --> 01:03:58.260

She still's painted up pretty good.

1334

01:03:58.700 --> 01:04:00.480

Still lines her eyes a little too heavy, Lance.

1335

01:04:00.760 --> 01:04:03.680

But she's still wearing a blouse that's one size too small.

1336

01:04:04.480 --> 01:04:06.280

And still acting like the party never ended.

1337

01:04:07.100 --> 01:04:09.140

At 52, though, she's carrying the miles.

1338

01:04:09.560 --> 01:04:11.200

But there's something about the way she laughs,

1339

01:04:11.340 --> 01:04:13.940

that throaty, careless laugh that pulls at you.

1340

01:04:14.080 --> 01:04:15.220

You remember her back then.

1341

01:04:15.940 --> 01:04:19.460

Wild and easy kind of girl who never said no to a good time.

1342

01:04:19.980 --> 01:04:21.180

You know the kind I'm talking about, Lance?

1343

01:04:21.240 --> 01:04:21.960

Oh, I know you do.

1344

01:04:21.960 --> 01:04:23.960

She hasn't changed much, not really.

1345

01:04:24.180 --> 01:04:27.760

A little older, a little softer, but still throwing off those sparks.

1346

01:04:28.580 --> 01:04:30.840

Your marriage has been running on fumes for years, pal.

1347

01:04:31.260 --> 01:04:34.400

Your wife colder than the AC blowing over your head right now.

1348

01:04:34.980 --> 01:04:37.220

You've got money, more than you'd ever thought you'd have.

1349

01:04:37.700 --> 01:04:39.400

But it doesn't buy back a warmth, right?

1350

01:04:39.420 --> 01:04:41.620

It doesn't stop the gnaw on your gut.

1351

01:04:41.880 --> 01:04:43.940

And Tina, Tina's looking at you.

1352

01:04:44.100 --> 01:04:45.420

It's like you're still worth looking at.

1353

01:04:45.820 --> 01:04:47.740

For a second, you let yourself imagine it.

1354

01:04:47.940 --> 01:04:50.960

Just staying too long and letting her laugh

1355

01:04:50.960 --> 01:04:53.400

and pull you into an old orbit.

1356

01:04:53.960 --> 01:04:57.040

Burning through cash like a time neither of you mattered.

1357

01:04:57.180 --> 01:04:57.980

It's pathetic.

1358

01:04:58.500 --> 01:05:01.480

It's dangerous, this idea in your mind.

1359

01:05:02.060 --> 01:05:04.740

It's exactly the kind of trouble you've always been drawn to.

1360

01:05:05.140 --> 01:05:06.640

She says, as you come back to the world,

1361

01:05:06.720 --> 01:05:09.160

I was just telling my friends about homecoming.

1362

01:05:09.560 --> 01:05:12.420

She grins at you, fumbling for her phone,

1363

01:05:12.480 --> 01:05:16.400

pulls her phone up and holds out her phone as she's swiping through

1364

01:05:16.400 --> 01:05:20.620

to find photos with this really mischievous grin on her face.

1365

01:05:20.960 --> 01:05:23.720

Let me pull up that photo for you.

1366

01:05:23.860 --> 01:05:24.780

Roll for syphilis.

1367

01:05:24.960 --> 01:05:25.700

Yes, Angela.

1368

01:05:26.320 --> 01:05:28.140

You can't, Angela, you can't.

1369

01:05:28.300 --> 01:05:30.220

These things, you have to interject them.

1370

01:05:30.220 --> 01:05:32.200

That's what I'm expecting as snark.

1371

01:05:32.360 --> 01:05:33.300

Yes, roll for syphilis.

1372

01:05:34.640 --> 01:05:36.020

Syphilis if you're lucky.

1373

01:05:38.380 --> 01:05:39.520

Syphilis if you're lucky.

1374

01:05:40.440 --> 01:05:43.040

I'm trying not to interrupt other people's vignettes.

1375

01:05:43.140 --> 01:05:43.980

Oh, no, you should.

1376

01:05:44.760 --> 01:05:45.640

Oh, please.

1377

01:05:46.460 --> 01:05:48.760

Where did the politeness come from?

1378

01:05:51.400 --> 01:05:53.640

We're on good behavior for the first session.

1379

01:05:53.880 --> 01:05:54.800

Yeah, it's the first session.

1380

01:05:54.960 --> 01:05:55.600

We're trying to be nice.

1381

01:05:55.800 --> 01:05:56.520

Feeling it out, yeah.

1382

01:05:57.160 --> 01:05:58.300

I don't know what to do with that.

1383

01:05:58.860 --> 01:05:59.900

That's why we're doing it.

1384

01:05:59.920 --> 01:06:01.120

That's why you're doing it?

1385

01:06:03.240 --> 01:06:07.460

Let me pull up the photo, Lance, that Tina's looking at.

1386

01:06:07.900 --> 01:06:09.540

This isn't a naked photo, is it?

1387

01:06:09.760 --> 01:06:10.500

Because I might need to.

1388

01:06:10.560 --> 01:06:12.360

That's on [harrybears.com](http://harrybears.com).

1389

01:06:12.540 --> 01:06:14.760

No, that's not what we're doing here.

1390

01:06:15.660 --> 01:06:17.120

That's not what we're doing here.

1391

01:06:17.460 --> 01:06:20.500

And this has to be a scanned photo uploaded to her phone

1392

01:06:20.500 --> 01:06:22.240

because there's no way this was taken on a phone.

1393

01:06:22.760 --> 01:06:23.220

That's correct.

1394

01:06:23.260 --> 01:06:25.780

It is a scanned photo uploaded to her phone.

1395

01:06:26.680 --> 01:06:29.500

A picture of a Polaroid, that sort of thing?

1396

01:06:29.960 --> 01:06:31.460

Effort was made here, yes.

1397

01:06:31.860 --> 01:06:32.860

Well, I tried.

1398

01:06:34.020 --> 01:06:35.280

You did, but this is better.

1399

01:06:36.200 --> 01:06:36.880

Oh, my.

1400

01:06:39.040 --> 01:06:39.520

Wow.

1401

01:06:39.520 --> 01:06:40.980

Oh, my hair.

1402

01:06:42.620 --> 01:06:43.300

Oh, boy.

1403

01:06:48.240 --> 01:06:49.560

So much hair.

1404

01:06:49.560 --> 01:06:50.520

Your hair is the same.

1405

01:06:50.720 --> 01:06:51.460

Oh, look at that.

1406

01:06:51.800 --> 01:06:53.040

So much hair.

1407

01:06:53.560 --> 01:06:56.840

Many aquanuts were killed in the making of this photo.

1408

01:06:56.840 --> 01:06:57.700

It's a raging mullet.

1409

01:06:57.860 --> 01:07:00.380

I will have you know that for that mullet,

1410

01:07:00.760 --> 01:07:05.580

I loaded my high school senior picture as a reference.

1411

01:07:06.320 --> 01:07:09.340

So just so you know, I've taken this very seriously.

1412

01:07:09.520 --> 01:07:10.360

Oh, my.

1413

01:07:12.060 --> 01:07:16.080

This will go into the archive for safekeeping.

1414

01:07:17.520 --> 01:07:21.060

It needs to go into the archive with your high school senior picture.

1415

01:07:21.820 --> 01:07:24.240

Yeah, we need the reference picture.

1416

01:07:24.660 --> 01:07:25.280

Oh, just wait.

1417

01:07:25.820 --> 01:07:28.040

Don't try to woo us with your one picture, James.

1418

01:07:28.460 --> 01:07:30.420

Okay, well, I have two.

1419

01:07:30.860 --> 01:07:32.420

There were two used as reference.

1420

01:07:33.240 --> 01:07:35.960

But you will also have to contribute things

1421

01:07:35.960 --> 01:07:37.860

because that's going to be part of the game going forward.

1422

01:07:38.360 --> 01:07:43.560

Well, I French braided my prom date's mullet for his senior prom.

1423

01:07:43.860 --> 01:07:44.700

Oh, nice.

1424

01:07:46.460 --> 01:07:46.940

Wow.

1425

01:07:47.300 --> 01:07:48.360

Nice, nice.

1426

01:07:48.440 --> 01:07:50.080

So that's the picture you see, Lance.

1427

01:07:50.420 --> 01:07:53.480

As you can imagine, anybody who's actually seeing that picture

1428

01:07:53.480 --> 01:07:54.780

and anybody who's listening to this,

1429

01:07:54.800 --> 01:07:56.680

once we do get our Patreon set up,

1430

01:07:56.680 --> 01:07:58.940

you can have access to all these photos and whatnot.

1431

01:07:59.380 --> 01:08:01.360

You need to roll a sanity check now, pal.

1432

01:08:04.760 --> 01:08:05.320

All righty.

1433

01:08:05.380 --> 01:08:07.080

Can the players also roll?

1434

01:08:07.640 --> 01:08:09.430

You never went to homecoming with Tina.

1435

01:08:10.660 --> 01:08:11.960

You are positive.

1436

01:08:12.560 --> 01:08:13.200

What the hell?

1437

01:08:13.380 --> 01:08:14.900

But you did have that much hair.

1438

01:08:15.480 --> 01:08:16.840

You did have this much hair.

1439

01:08:17.120 --> 01:08:19.060

Rolled a 52 on a 60.

1440

01:08:19.640 --> 01:08:21.720

Oh, just you got by.

1441

01:08:22.020 --> 01:08:23.020

You got by, pal.

1442

01:08:23.479 --> 01:08:25.399

I think I'm still distracted by the tight shirt.

1443

01:08:26.020 --> 01:08:28.000

Yeah, your stomach kind of drops, though.

1444

01:08:28.020 --> 01:08:29.720

That's not your memory, but there it is.

1445

01:08:29.779 --> 01:08:31.200

Something weird is happening here.

1446

01:08:31.260 --> 01:08:32.460

I don't get it.

1447

01:08:32.700 --> 01:08:34.120

Take one point of sanity damage.

1448

01:08:35.220 --> 01:08:36.960

But she can tell something's off with you.

1449

01:08:37.380 --> 01:08:38.979

She's like, are you all right, baby?

1450

01:08:39.340 --> 01:08:40.540

You look like you've seen a ghost.

1451

01:08:41.680 --> 01:08:42.520

I tell you what, though.

1452

01:08:42.520 --> 01:08:44.100

You swing by the Cuckoo's Nest tonight.

1453

01:08:44.479 --> 01:08:46.300

They've plastered old pictures all over the walls.

1454

01:08:46.319 --> 01:08:47.160

I'll show you around.

1455

01:08:49.600 --> 01:08:50.880

You got to get out of Dodge.

1456

01:08:50.920 --> 01:08:52.220

You've got an appointment to get to.

1457

01:08:53.180 --> 01:08:55.140

Yeah, I'll see if my, you know,

1458

01:08:55.140 --> 01:08:56.979

I've got a pretty busy schedule here, Tina.

1459

01:08:57.060 --> 01:08:57.859

Good to see you, though.

1460

01:08:58.439 --> 01:09:00.620

I'll see if I have a chance to stop by later.

1461

01:09:03.720 --> 01:09:04.439

Cuckoo's Nest.

1462

01:09:04.600 --> 01:09:06.760

An actual place in my hometown.

1463

01:09:07.080 --> 01:09:08.580

I have been there.

1464

01:09:08.859 --> 01:09:09.979

So welcome all.

1465

01:09:10.220 --> 01:09:12.040

Now that you've all been introduced to one another.

1466

01:09:12.840 --> 01:09:14.120

You're all in Ashwood.

1467

01:09:14.700 --> 01:09:16.479

Can they be faithful listeners yet?

1468

01:09:16.560 --> 01:09:18.580

If they've only listened to one episode, probably not.

1469

01:09:18.660 --> 01:09:20.060

But they're going to be faithful listeners now.

1470

01:09:20.080 --> 01:09:22.600

They're all introduced to who you are and why you're back here.

1471

01:09:23.160 --> 01:09:28.859

I think a well-deserving session zero to get everyone started.

1472

01:09:29.279 --> 01:09:31.359

But you know, you've got a will of reading to get to

1473

01:09:31.359 --> 01:09:34.180

because we want to get to the getting on this mystery

1474

01:09:34.180 --> 01:09:35.640

and what's actually going on here.

1475

01:09:35.640 --> 01:09:38.220

Are these memories you actually had?

1476

01:09:39.220 --> 01:09:40.399

Are these things that are created?

1477

01:09:40.580 --> 01:09:41.640

Is somebody fucking with you?

1478

01:09:42.220 --> 01:09:44.000

What is exactly going on here?

1479

01:09:50.140 --> 01:09:52.500

Thanks for listening to Roll for Sanity.

1480

01:09:53.319 --> 01:09:54.760

If you'd like to support the show

1481

01:09:54.760 --> 01:09:58.040

and explore deeper into the world of Echoes Under Ashwood,

1482

01:09:58.700 --> 01:10:00.240

you can find bonus episodes,

1483

01:10:00.840 --> 01:10:01.540

extended scenes,

1484

01:10:01.740 --> 01:10:04.400

and in-world artifacts in our Patreon alt,

1485

01:10:04.840 --> 01:10:06.140

The Latchkey Lair.

1486

01:10:07.180 --> 01:10:08.600

There's also a listener discord,

1487

01:10:08.600 --> 01:10:11.880

where people can share theories, details they've noticed,

1488

01:10:12.420 --> 01:10:14.640

and help us keep the lore of Ashwood consistent

1489

01:10:14.640 --> 01:10:15.880

as the story unfolds.

1490

01:10:17.300 --> 01:10:21.240

Ratings, reviews, shares make a real difference for us

1491

01:10:21.240 --> 01:10:23.280

in helping new listeners find the show.

1492

01:10:24.460 --> 01:10:26.440

We appreciate you spending your time with us.

1493

01:10:26.640 --> 01:10:27.280

We'll be back soon.

WEBVTT

1

00:00:01.070 --> 00:00:03.790

Welcome to Roll for Sanity.

2

00:00:03.890 --> 00:00:11.030

This is Echoes Under Ashwood, a collaborative audio drama using Call of Cthulhu 7th edition.

3

00:00:11.370 --> 00:00:16.510

It's a slow burn horror story about a group of friends who lost one of their own in

4

00:00:16.510 --> 00:00:22.590

high school, drifted apart, and are now being pulled back together decades later for

5

00:00:22.590 --> 00:00:24.810

a reunion none of them wanted.

6

00:00:25.400 --> 00:00:27.950

Before we begin, a content warning.

7

00:00:28.370 --> 00:00:31.810

This series explores themes of childhood trauma.

8

00:00:32.350 --> 00:00:34.710

Details can be found in the show notes.

9

00:00:35.310 --> 00:00:37.690

Listener discretion is strongly advised.

10

00:00:38.330 --> 00:00:43.790

If you enjoy the show, you can find bonus episodes, extended scenes, and in-world

11

00:00:43.790 --> 00:00:47.450

artifacts in our Patreon vault, the Latchkey Lair.

12

00:00:47.970 --> 00:00:52.310

Ratings, reviews, and shares help more than you might think.

13

00:00:52.950 --> 00:00:53.550

Now.

14

00:01:52.460 --> 00:01:59.280

Welcome to Roll for Sanity.

15

00:01:59.700 --> 00:02:01.280

This is Echoes Under Ashwood.

16

00:02:01.600 --> 00:02:06.280

It's a cosmic horror story about the small town places that raised us, the lies

17

00:02:06.280 --> 00:02:09.560

we were told, the strangleholds put on us.

18

00:02:10.199 --> 00:02:12.360

And the stuff we didn't really talk about.

19

00:02:13.020 --> 00:02:16.740

If this is your first time stopping by, grab a beanbag chair and hang out for a

20

00:02:16.740 --> 00:02:17.840

while, we'll catch you up.

21

00:02:18.460 --> 00:02:21.860

If you just walked in without knocking, we assume you brought them out in due.

22

00:02:22.840 --> 00:02:26.780

But before we begin, a quick note about how this story works.

23

00:02:28.200 --> 00:02:31.120

What you're about to hear is purely collaborative.

24

00:02:32.340 --> 00:02:37.580

Each of the collaborators, or as we will call them, players, created their

25

00:02:37.580 --> 00:02:38.320

own characters.

26

00:02:39.760 --> 00:02:42.360

The only shared foundation was this.

27

00:02:43.660 --> 00:02:45.500

That they were our best friends in high school.

28

00:02:46.840 --> 00:02:48.820

That one of their closest friends disappeared.

29

00:02:50.200 --> 00:02:53.520

And whatever happened back then left damage.

30

00:02:55.040 --> 00:02:58.760

Everything else, the personalities, the strengths, the blind spots,

31

00:02:59.340 --> 00:03:00.460

that came from them.

32

00:03:01.580 --> 00:03:03.480

Each character has defined abilities.

33

00:03:04.100 --> 00:03:06.500

How perceptive they are, how persuasive.

34

00:03:07.140 --> 00:03:11.520

How steady they are when things start to fracture.

35

00:03:12.620 --> 00:03:15.040

When something uncertain happens, we test those limits.

36

00:03:15.660 --> 00:03:19.100

Sometimes they succeed, sometimes they don't.

37

00:03:19.700 --> 00:03:21.480

Either way, the story progresses.

38

00:03:22.900 --> 00:03:24.300

These aren't heroes, mind you.

39

00:03:24.540 --> 00:03:29.500

They're middle-aged Gen X adults carrying unfinished business, walking

40

00:03:29.500 --> 00:03:33.820

back into a hometown that remembers them differently than they remember it.

41

00:03:33.820 --> 00:03:36.660

This is a place of childhood trauma.

42

00:03:37.360 --> 00:03:39.840

Thin places where reality unravels.

43

00:03:40.460 --> 00:03:42.060

Your dice will betray you.

44

00:03:42.480 --> 00:03:43.940

The void will tempt us.

45

00:03:44.160 --> 00:03:46.180

But all we can do is smirk into oblivion.

46

00:03:47.440 --> 00:03:52.480

So with that, I want to introduce those of us who are playing as part

47

00:03:52.480 --> 00:03:55.820

of the Role for Sanity group, the latchkey kids, so to speak.

48

00:03:56.380 --> 00:03:58.280

And so why don't everybody introduce yourself?

49

00:03:58.360 --> 00:03:59.120

Carrie, you go first.

50

00:03:59.160 --> 00:04:03.100

Tell us a bit about yourself and who you're playing in this session.

51

00:04:04.000 --> 00:04:05.940

Yeah, my name is Carrie Harris.

52

00:04:06.220 --> 00:04:08.260

I make shit up for a living.

53

00:04:08.640 --> 00:04:14.620

I've written for Marvel, Miraculous Ladybug, actually a couple of other

54

00:04:14.620 --> 00:04:16.180

licenses that I can't tell you.

55

00:04:16.380 --> 00:04:18.899

And yes, I'm taunting you.

56

00:04:19.839 --> 00:04:21.660

Playboy for the articles.

57

00:04:24.660 --> 00:04:25.260

Under a pseudonym.

58

00:04:25.260 --> 00:04:26.460

You weren't supposed to tell.

59

00:04:26.600 --> 00:04:27.740

Under a pseudonym.

60

00:04:27.880 --> 00:04:28.820

All right.

61

00:04:29.160 --> 00:04:30.880

Art Pratt. Art Pratt is a pseudonym.

62

00:04:30.880 --> 00:04:31.340

Yes.

63

00:04:35.020 --> 00:04:36.660

Yeah, I'm writing under all of your names.

64

00:04:36.660 --> 00:04:37.540

Yeah, exactly.

65

00:04:37.920 --> 00:04:38.400

Right.

66

00:04:39.180 --> 00:04:45.020

I'm playing Bex Lexington, who is a former punk singer,

67

00:04:45.520 --> 00:04:49.740

uber rebel who has since become a county coroner,

68

00:04:49.740 --> 00:04:55.460

but is still just as tattooed, pierced and pissed off as she used to be.

69

00:04:56.900 --> 00:04:57.420

Outstanding.

70

00:04:58.320 --> 00:04:59.000

Welcome, Carrie.

71

00:04:59.100 --> 00:04:59.840

Thanks for playing.

72

00:05:00.440 --> 00:05:01.400

Angela, you go.

73

00:05:03.600 --> 00:05:04.020

All right.

74

00:05:04.680 --> 00:05:06.360

I'm Angela Edwards.

75

00:05:07.220 --> 00:05:09.440

I'm a retired math teacher.

76

00:05:10.600 --> 00:05:17.600

And I sew and make jewelry as a hobby, I guess, since I close my business.

77

00:05:17.700 --> 00:05:18.320

You do stuff.

78

00:05:19.160 --> 00:05:20.420

I do stuff.

79

00:05:21.420 --> 00:05:30.220

And I am playing Dawn McBride, who was the local extraordinarily poor

80

00:05:30.220 --> 00:05:40.240

girl, and kind of grew up and found her people in the Earth's first commune.

81

00:05:40.380 --> 00:05:44.620

And so now she's very what most people would call woo woo.

82

00:05:44.760 --> 00:05:45.580

Woo woo.

83

00:05:46.100 --> 00:05:46.500

Woo woo woo.

84

00:05:47.160 --> 00:05:48.180

Hippie patchouli lady.

85

00:05:49.640 --> 00:05:51.100

Absolutely, except not the patchouli.

86

00:05:51.120 --> 00:05:52.040

Patchouli smells bad.

87

00:05:52.060 --> 00:05:52.360

Yeah.

88

00:05:53.140 --> 00:05:53.880

We don't patchouli.

89

00:05:53.900 --> 00:05:55.020

Sandalwood and nut champa.

90

00:05:55.380 --> 00:05:56.700  
Patchouli is not deodorant.

91  
00:05:56.720 --> 00:05:57.580  
Thank you very much.

92  
00:05:59.060 --> 00:05:59.420  
Awesome.

93  
00:05:59.420 --> 00:05:59.940  
Thanks.

94  
00:06:00.240 --> 00:06:01.300  
Thanks for being here, Angela.

95  
00:06:01.500 --> 00:06:02.640  
Greg, how about you?

96  
00:06:03.180 --> 00:06:03.520  
Me.

97  
00:06:03.920 --> 00:06:05.060  
So I'm Greg Baimel.

98  
00:06:06.000 --> 00:06:06.760  
Let's see.

99  
00:06:06.780 --> 00:06:07.880  
I work in statistics.

100  
00:06:07.960 --> 00:06:10.080  
So like Carrie, I also make shit up for a living.

101

00:06:10.640 --> 00:06:11.340

Yep, exactly.

102

00:06:12.600 --> 00:06:19.380

And the character I'm playing is Lance McLean, a child of academics who were

103

00:06:19.380 --> 00:06:25.260

too smart for their surroundings and rejected all that and went off to become a business

104

00:06:25.260 --> 00:06:30.560

in the space of clowning and goofing around.

105

00:06:32.220 --> 00:06:32.520

Yes.

106

00:06:33.320 --> 00:06:37.860

So, wow, this character cuts really, really closely to your actual lived life.

107

00:06:38.220 --> 00:06:38.600

It does.

108

00:06:39.220 --> 00:06:39.780

Uncanny.

109

00:06:41.060 --> 00:06:42.640

None of the rest of us did that either.

110

00:06:42.660 --> 00:06:43.820

No, of course not.

111

00:06:44.440 --> 00:06:47.960

No, that wasn't part of the instructions either.

112

00:06:49.760 --> 00:06:50.100

Awesome.

113

00:06:50.240 --> 00:06:51.760

Greg, it's going to be a good time.

114

00:06:51.840 --> 00:06:52.500

Thanks for being here.

115

00:06:52.620 --> 00:06:53.540

Art, you go next.

116

00:06:54.440 --> 00:06:55.360

All right.

117

00:06:55.680 --> 00:06:56.700

My name is Art Pratt.

118

00:06:56.780 --> 00:06:59.940

I am an ultrasound tech by trade.

119

00:07:00.260 --> 00:07:05.000

So like Angela and Greg, I also make shit up for a living, as you've ever

120

00:07:05.000 --> 00:07:05.860

looked at those screens.

121

00:07:05.860 --> 00:07:06.120

Oh, yeah.

122

00:07:07.580 --> 00:07:20.240

I am playing Oscar Hannigan, who goes by Oz, a guy who ran from his very abusive

123

00:07:20.240 --> 00:07:28.640

childhood into the military, had a horrible accident, is scarred on the left side of

124

00:07:28.640 --> 00:07:35.660

his body from a horrible burn, and now is a private investigator.

125

00:07:35.980 --> 00:07:36.400

Interesting.

126

00:07:37.120 --> 00:07:38.020

I think that's pretty good.

127

00:07:38.160 --> 00:07:39.140

That is pretty good.

128

00:07:39.380 --> 00:07:39.960

That is pretty good.

129

00:07:40.180 --> 00:07:40.540

Yeah.

130

00:07:40.760 --> 00:07:43.000

The rest shall be exposed later.

131

00:07:43.580 --> 00:07:45.560

We don't want you to expose anything to us.

132

00:07:45.580 --> 00:07:46.290

Thank you very much.

133

00:07:48.620 --> 00:07:49.800

And thanks, Art.

134

00:07:49.800 --> 00:07:52.600

Grant, round us out here.

135

00:07:53.220 --> 00:07:53.720

Hello, everyone.

136

00:07:53.740 --> 00:07:54.500

Grant Gleissner.

137

00:07:55.880 --> 00:07:57.280

I am originally from Wisconsin.

138

00:07:57.300 --> 00:07:58.680

That's where James and I met.

139

00:08:00.100 --> 00:08:05.460

I work in the IT field, mostly doing kind of like project management stuff these days.

140

00:08:06.620 --> 00:08:10.160

But every once in a while, we got to get out and move some stuff and pull some cables

141

00:08:10.160 --> 00:08:10.640

or whatever.

142

00:08:11.320 --> 00:08:18.300

So my character is going to be Harry Glassman, also known as the Ass Man.

143

00:08:19.360 --> 00:08:27.720

He's a very fond of baseball, and he is a huge fan of the Cincinnati Reds.

144

00:08:27.800 --> 00:08:32.240

He moved closer to Cincinnati so that he could be there after leaving high school

145

00:08:33.100 --> 00:08:35.220  
just to be in their orbit, so to speak.

146  
00:08:37.260 --> 00:08:44.280  
I would say a not realistic person in the fact that he's very optimistic.

147  
00:08:44.360 --> 00:08:45.820  
He thinks that everything is funny.

148  
00:08:46.520 --> 00:08:48.560  
Everything is done for his amusement.

149  
00:08:49.900 --> 00:08:55.100  
All the stuff that goes on in the rest of the world stops immediately when he turns

150  
00:08:55.100 --> 00:08:57.080  
his eyes the other way he doesn't think about.

151  
00:08:57.400 --> 00:09:01.920  
He still thinks that his hometown is exactly the way he left it a week after graduation.

152  
00:09:02.480 --> 00:09:06.380  
So he is very excited about going back and seeing all his old friends.

153  
00:09:06.440 --> 00:09:08.960  
Nothing changed at whatsoever.

154  
00:09:09.080 --> 00:09:10.240  
Nothing could have changed at all.

155  
00:09:10.520 --> 00:09:11.060  
Thanks, Grant.

156

00:09:12.300 --> 00:09:13.140

I'm James.

157

00:09:13.860 --> 00:09:17.540

You're a, quote, keeper in this operation.

158

00:09:17.740 --> 00:09:23.840

It has, in fact, been more than 30 years since I've done this, so this will be quite

159

00:09:23.840 --> 00:09:24.340

interesting.

160

00:09:25.280 --> 00:09:32.180

So I've had a lot of time to think about stuff and many, many dozens, probably

161

00:09:32.180 --> 00:09:38.040

hundreds of hours of therapy now from which to draw for this tentacular horror

162

00:09:38.040 --> 00:09:39.220

that we're going to go through.

163

00:09:40.400 --> 00:09:41.360

Yes, tentacular.

164

00:09:42.080 --> 00:09:43.440

Everybody loves tentacles.

165

00:09:44.120 --> 00:09:45.100

Lots of squirmy things.

166

00:09:45.760 --> 00:09:48.600

So just a little bit for the folks.

167

00:09:49.140 --> 00:09:51.380

This is basically, you guys are all returning home.

168

00:09:52.320 --> 00:09:54.800

Some of you would rather not.

169

00:09:55.440 --> 00:09:58.500

Some of you have never been back there since you left high school after

170

00:09:58.500 --> 00:10:00.000

graduating in 1990.

171

00:10:01.080 --> 00:10:04.540

Kind of a long-held-off reunion here.

172

00:10:05.920 --> 00:10:10.740

And you were all thick as thieves in high school and even junior high to

173

00:10:10.740 --> 00:10:11.340

some extent.

174

00:10:12.000 --> 00:10:13.700

Kind of like that group of misfits.

175

00:10:14.000 --> 00:10:18.060

You didn't quite fit with anybody else for whatever reason you guys clicked.

176

00:10:19.640 --> 00:10:20.260

Thanks, Angela.

177

00:10:20.260 --> 00:10:20.800

I saw that.

178

00:10:20.920 --> 00:10:22.360

You're having dirty thoughts on your face.

179

00:10:22.420 --> 00:10:22.740

Okay.

180

00:10:22.800 --> 00:10:23.460

That's excellent.

181

00:10:24.740 --> 00:10:28.860

I will read your IMs if they're appropriate through the Discord.

182

00:10:29.460 --> 00:10:30.040

So awesome.

183

00:10:30.320 --> 00:10:32.240

But in general, that's what we're doing.

184

00:10:33.340 --> 00:10:37.580

To remind you all, you are all going back to this town on the same day,

185

00:10:37.660 --> 00:10:40.100

going to the same place because you received a letter.

186

00:10:40.100 --> 00:10:43.600

You were mentioned in your friend Amy in her will.

187

00:10:43.900 --> 00:10:48.300

Amy was one of the groups of you that was thick as thieves in high school.

188

00:10:48.560 --> 00:10:49.120

And you know what?

189

00:10:50.340 --> 00:10:51.260

She disappeared.

190

00:10:52.920 --> 00:10:55.720

Like a long time ago, like 30-something years ago.

191

00:10:56.080 --> 00:10:59.340

We'll get into that story as the game unfolds.

192

00:10:59.560 --> 00:11:03.980

But she came back unbeknownst to you and left a will.

193

00:11:04.400 --> 00:11:05.720

She's gone now again.

194

00:11:06.400 --> 00:11:07.500

So kind of mysterious.

195

00:11:07.660 --> 00:11:08.680

You're kind of going back there.

196

00:11:08.680 --> 00:11:10.660

You don't know what the hell is going on.

197

00:11:11.180 --> 00:11:13.560

But it's important enough that, you know, think about it.

198

00:11:13.620 --> 00:11:18.220

Somebody from 30 years ago that you were thick with and suddenly disappears,

199

00:11:18.380 --> 00:11:24.000

and you didn't talk to them, and then they name you as someone in their will.

200

00:11:24.220 --> 00:11:25.240

That's quite odd.

201

00:11:25.320 --> 00:11:28.180

So you're very interested to go back to see what this is all about.

202

00:11:30.320 --> 00:11:31.160

Any questions?

203

00:11:33.470 --> 00:11:34.370

Any recollections?

204

00:11:34.410 --> 00:11:35.570

Anything we need to know?

205

00:11:36.790 --> 00:11:39.250

I can't wait to get back to the hometown.

206

00:11:39.570 --> 00:11:40.050

Exactly.

207

00:11:40.610 --> 00:11:45.830

I've been thinking about the sliders on the corner of the burger stand for

208

00:11:46.430 --> 00:11:48.150

ever since I got this letter.

209

00:11:48.330 --> 00:11:49.890

I'm just so excited.

210

00:11:50.610 --> 00:11:51.550

Beside yourself.

211

00:11:53.010 --> 00:11:53.850

Oh, yeah.

212

00:11:53.950 --> 00:11:58.510

I can't wait to see all the old crew and all the old haunts that I used to go to.

213

00:11:58.570 --> 00:11:59.550

I'm going to go fishing.

214

00:11:59.690 --> 00:12:01.290

I'm going to go hunting again.

215

00:12:01.870 --> 00:12:06.870

I'm going to take the canoe out on the reservoir above the dam.

216

00:12:07.050 --> 00:12:07.750

It's going to be awesome.

217

00:12:08.370 --> 00:12:08.650

It's going to be great.

218

00:12:08.650 --> 00:12:09.210

It's going to be great.

219

00:12:09.210 --> 00:12:10.430

Glad to hear, Harry.

220

00:12:10.850 --> 00:12:12.330

It's going to be awesome.

221

00:12:13.730 --> 00:12:18.930

I'm also really curious as to why after all this time I was mentioning in the will.

222

00:12:21.490 --> 00:12:27.510

There was a thing that Harry has always been wondering about.

223

00:12:27.650 --> 00:12:32.430

It's like, wait, did she put me in the will because she really had a thing for me?

224

00:12:32.510 --> 00:12:33.810

I thought it was something else.

225

00:12:34.150 --> 00:12:36.510

Maybe I was mistaken about our relationship.

226

00:12:36.510 --> 00:12:39.230

No, Harry wouldn't be mistaken about anything.

227

00:12:41.330 --> 00:12:42.250

I don't know.

228

00:12:42.570 --> 00:12:46.570

I'm more concerned with why she never told us she came back before she disappeared again.

229

00:12:46.990 --> 00:12:52.290

I mean, we were that close and why did she not tell us she came back?

230

00:12:52.430 --> 00:12:53.890

Why didn't she tell me she came back?

231

00:12:54.010 --> 00:12:54.910

Did I do something wrong?

232

00:12:55.470 --> 00:12:55.890

Probably.

233

00:12:56.330 --> 00:12:57.070

Probably did.

234

00:12:57.530 --> 00:12:58.730

You probably did, yes.

235

00:12:59.050 --> 00:13:03.350

I'm mostly surprised that the lawyers found me because I went off grid years ago.

236

00:13:03.910 --> 00:13:04.690

Weird, right?

237

00:13:05.430 --> 00:13:06.110

Mm-hmm.

238

00:13:06.570 --> 00:13:06.630

Weird.

239

00:13:06.770 --> 00:13:08.270

How did they find you?

240

00:13:09.530 --> 00:13:10.090

Interesting.

241

00:13:10.530 --> 00:13:11.070

Interesting.

242

00:13:11.670 --> 00:13:14.370

But I barely decided to come.

243

00:13:14.450 --> 00:13:17.290

I almost just threw the letter in the trash.

244

00:13:18.930 --> 00:13:22.290

Curiosity, I guess, just got a little bit of a better of me

245

00:13:22.570 --> 00:13:29.750

where I was thinking, you know, why would she leave anything for me in the will?

246

00:13:30.490 --> 00:13:35.990

My plan is to pull into town, get this over with, and get out of town.

247

00:13:35.990 --> 00:13:37.070

Get out of town, yep.

248

00:13:37.650 --> 00:13:37.930

Yeah.

249

00:13:37.990 --> 00:13:38.810

Oh, yeah, I know that feeling.

250

00:13:38.830 --> 00:13:40.150

I have no desire to stay.

251

00:13:41.730 --> 00:13:41.970

Yeah.

252

00:13:42.110 --> 00:13:44.010

I'm kind of in the same boat, fucker.

253

00:13:44.630 --> 00:13:45.090

Yeah.

254

00:13:45.710 --> 00:13:46.710

I'm coming out of spite.

255

00:13:47.190 --> 00:13:48.030

Yeah, nice.

256

00:13:49.070 --> 00:13:49.600

Love it.

257

00:13:50.790 --> 00:13:56.850

Whereas I'm like, oh my God, Amy, and I dropped everything and went.

258

00:13:57.550 --> 00:13:58.110

Excellent.

259

00:13:58.290 --> 00:14:03.870

We're going to get into your relationships here with Amy in just a little bit,

260

00:14:03.950 --> 00:14:09.470

but I wanted to introduce folks to this place called Ashwood, Ohio.

261

00:14:10.790 --> 00:14:16.150

Any similarities to any real place called Ashwood, Ohio is not my intention.

262

00:14:16.590 --> 00:14:21.050

However, it is my intention to draw corollaries to other small towns in Ohio.

263

00:14:22.390 --> 00:14:25.610

So just saying, you know, Carrie is the author.

264

00:14:25.790 --> 00:14:26.330

What do they say?

265

00:14:26.330 --> 00:14:27.590

Write what you know.

266

00:14:28.230 --> 00:14:28.990

That's what I did.

267

00:14:29.610 --> 00:14:31.050

I've been to some of those places.

268

00:14:31.370 --> 00:14:33.150

Yes, write what you know.

269

00:14:33.910 --> 00:14:36.110

So I wrote the shit out of this.

270

00:14:36.910 --> 00:14:45.650

So I'm going to put a map of Ohio behind me next time with a pin in it.

271

00:14:46.510 --> 00:14:47.410

You can do that.

272

00:14:47.530 --> 00:14:48.110

You could do that.

273

00:14:48.130 --> 00:14:48.970

It might actually be helpful.

274

00:14:50.730 --> 00:14:52.250

That's just flyover territory.

275

00:14:52.470 --> 00:14:55.490

Once you get west of like middle of Pennsylvania,

276

00:14:55.490 --> 00:14:58.070

there's nothing left until you get to L.A. as far as I'm concerned.

277

00:14:59.130 --> 00:15:04.190

Well, then I'm literally living in the middle of nowhere.

278

00:15:04.470 --> 00:15:04.970

You are.

279

00:15:05.610 --> 00:15:06.810

But what about the Reds?

280

00:15:06.990 --> 00:15:09.890

The Reds are the only thing that's important between the coasts.

281

00:15:09.890 --> 00:15:10.570

You know that, right?

282

00:15:12.930 --> 00:15:16.430

That fourth coast on the mighty Ohio River, right?

283

00:15:17.490 --> 00:15:18.270

Yeah, exactly.

284

00:15:20.790 --> 00:15:23.810

You got to open one of your panic rooms over there, my friend.

285

00:15:23.810 --> 00:15:25.730

I get a chance to see you a little bit more.

286

00:15:25.810 --> 00:15:28.270

This is going to be really hard for an IRL Yankees fan.

287

00:15:31.510 --> 00:15:33.250

Yeah, and it's all clicks and whistles to me.

288

00:15:34.690 --> 00:15:36.070

So let me get started here.

289

00:15:36.250 --> 00:15:38.510

Let's give folks an introduction to Ashwood here.

290

00:15:38.530 --> 00:15:40.010

So I want to go through this.

291

00:15:40.210 --> 00:15:43.340

And this is going to describe what it feels like being there right now

292

00:15:43.990 --> 00:15:50.550

on your way back because it's early June and it's just too damn hot.

293

00:15:51.410 --> 00:15:53.090

I mean, not summer hot.

294

00:15:53.090 --> 00:15:54.650

Like, wrong hot.

295

00:15:55.390 --> 00:15:59.390

Like, it feels like the air is hanging on you like wet wool.

296

00:16:00.330 --> 00:16:01.230

It's the heat there.

297

00:16:01.510 --> 00:16:05.870

It's not like burning hot, but it just like sticks to you, clings to you, right?

298

00:16:05.870 --> 00:16:08.470

It makes you forget what day it is, right?

299

00:16:08.470 --> 00:16:10.350

It makes you remember things you wish you hadn't.

300

00:16:10.530 --> 00:16:12.470

Just like, God, this is oppressive.

301

00:16:12.630 --> 00:16:15.090

But this is Ashwood, Ohio, and this is your hometown.

302

00:16:16.950 --> 00:16:20.770

Population, 20,000, if you count the ones who disappeared.

303

00:16:22.110 --> 00:16:27.410

The town squats down in the bowl of the hills where the Appalachians start to sag.

304

00:16:27.990 --> 00:16:31.610

The Ohio River twists around like it's trying to get away.

305

00:16:32.930 --> 00:16:38.930

It's all overgrown rail lines, shuttered factories, neighborhoods sinking into the clay.

306

00:16:41.260 --> 00:16:42.460

Ashwood used to hum, though.

307

00:16:42.920 --> 00:16:44.000

You remember this, right?

308

00:16:44.020 --> 00:16:45.480

Rail yards by the mile.

309

00:16:46.780 --> 00:16:49.520

Foundries belching light into the night sky.

310

00:16:50.380 --> 00:16:53.440

Machine shops that just never slept, going constantly.

311

00:16:53.580 --> 00:16:56.860

Dirty hands, clean money is what they used to say around here.

312

00:16:58.520 --> 00:16:59.960

And then the jobs left in the 80s.

313

00:17:01.760 --> 00:17:03.940

Now, steel's gone.

314

00:17:05.040 --> 00:17:07.060

Rail yards are bone piles.

315

00:17:09.060 --> 00:17:12.079

What's left are back roads and empty diners.

316

00:17:13.560 --> 00:17:16.140

Strip malls where the signs glow but the stores are gone.

317

00:17:18.020 --> 00:17:24.460

A town that smells like cut grass and wet asphalt and whatever's rotting beneath the surface.

318

00:17:25.819 --> 00:17:31.880

The jobs left, the lights went out, kids with them, right?

319

00:17:31.880 --> 00:17:35.860

The kids there grew up knowing two things about Ashwood.

320

00:17:37.620 --> 00:17:43.140

The only way out is luck and the hollow always takes us due.

321

00:17:45.050 --> 00:17:46.830

Folks here still hang on, though, in Ashwood.

322

00:17:46.970 --> 00:17:48.850

I mean, there's still obviously people living there still.

323

00:17:49.830 --> 00:17:52.390

You know, some say, oh, yeah, we're still a town of 20,000.

324

00:17:52.410 --> 00:17:52.990

Are you?

325

00:17:53.230 --> 00:17:53.890

No, probably not.

326

00:17:53.890 --> 00:17:55.530

Probably more like 15 or 12.

327

00:17:55.530 --> 00:17:56.330

They're stubborn.

328

00:17:57.110 --> 00:17:57.790

They're suspicious.

329

00:17:58.930 --> 00:18:03.750

Like, if they keep showing up, right, to Sunday church and Friday night football,

330

00:18:05.210 --> 00:18:06.810

the world might forget to end.

331

00:18:08.550 --> 00:18:10.890

The school's mascot's the raven, right?

332

00:18:10.890 --> 00:18:11.730

But it makes sense.

333

00:18:11.990 --> 00:18:15.810

Ashwood High Ravens, scavengers, mean one cornered.

334

00:18:15.870 --> 00:18:16.970

Cacaw, motherfuckers.

335

00:18:19.730 --> 00:18:20.570

Picking bones.

336

00:18:22.750 --> 00:18:24.950

Picking bones of what's left of Ashwood.

337

00:18:24.950 --> 00:18:26.630

Ravens make sense, right?

338

00:18:27.850 --> 00:18:33.110

Oh, and I meant to tell you, so that part about the hollow taking us due?

339

00:18:35.050 --> 00:18:36.730

Locals around here call it the Fen.

340

00:18:38.110 --> 00:18:41.930

That deep gash of a ravine there northeast of town,

341

00:18:42.570 --> 00:18:45.750

thick, dark woods, looping trails down in there.

342

00:18:47.050 --> 00:18:48.490

I'm kind of known for that around here.

343

00:18:48.530 --> 00:18:52.910

This is a place where it's said no one really knows where that damn stream

344

00:18:52.910 --> 00:18:55.790

down on the bottom of the ravine starts or ends.

345

00:18:57.010 --> 00:18:59.170

Trails out there change when you're not looking at them.

346

00:19:00.290 --> 00:19:03.990

Maps go all soft and fuzzy around the edges, right?

347

00:19:03.990 --> 00:19:05.510

Your phone's no damn good out there.

348

00:19:06.690 --> 00:19:08.170

Or anywhere around here, really.

349

00:19:09.310 --> 00:19:09.730

I'll wink.

350

00:19:11.470 --> 00:19:13.470

Hikers get turned around out there all the time.

351

00:19:13.510 --> 00:19:15.610

Even the locals get turned around out there, right?

352

00:19:15.610 --> 00:19:17.770

There's hundreds of acres of nothing special.

353

00:19:18.430 --> 00:19:20.370

And something else all together in there.

354

00:19:21.190 --> 00:19:23.350

Sometimes people come back different from the Fen.

355

00:19:24.570 --> 00:19:26.070

Sometimes it'll come back at all.

356

00:19:27.510 --> 00:19:28.190

Like how?

357

00:19:29.790 --> 00:19:30.690

How, you ask.

358

00:19:31.410 --> 00:19:32.050

I didn't ask.

359

00:19:32.070 --> 00:19:32.750

Did you guys ask?

360

00:19:33.390 --> 00:19:37.050

Yes, you should all be asking yourself this and many other questions about

361

00:19:37.050 --> 00:19:38.230

why you chose to do this.

362

00:19:39.590 --> 00:19:40.030

So like how?

363

00:19:40.130 --> 00:19:44.310

So ask around and listen real close and you'll hear about Lily Caldwell.

364

00:19:45.310 --> 00:19:48.130

17 and too damn smart for her own good, that girl was.

365

00:19:48.930 --> 00:19:50.290

She vanished in 87.

366

00:19:50.370 --> 00:19:52.290

Just gone, poof.

367

00:19:52.690 --> 00:19:54.510

No note, no trace.

368

00:19:56.170 --> 00:20:00.190

Some people say she ran off to Vegas and that them Caldwell girls was trouble.

369

00:20:01.030 --> 00:20:02.290

Can't say and don't know.

370

00:20:03.030 --> 00:20:06.710

And her little sister Amy, she spent three years looking for Lily.

371

00:20:07.870 --> 00:20:10.430

Now, now nobody will admit this part.

372

00:20:12.060 --> 00:20:13.540

It's because she kept up a good front.

373

00:20:14.880 --> 00:20:16.380

But that little girl, she knew something.

374

00:20:17.620 --> 00:20:18.940

She found something out.

375

00:20:19.940 --> 00:20:21.300

And she up and vanished too.

376

00:20:22.600 --> 00:20:25.140

But nobody talks about them anymore, not out loud anyway.

377

00:20:26.320 --> 00:20:28.580

But you can feel their presence around here, like a bruise,

378

00:20:28.580 --> 00:20:30.300

like a deep bruise under the skin.

379

00:20:30.380 --> 00:20:32.220

You can't see it, but you can certainly feel it.

380

00:20:33.140 --> 00:20:36.220

And the way folks pause before the word Caldwell.

381

00:20:37.660 --> 00:20:40.440

And the way the woods seems quieter when you pass by the hollow.

382

00:20:42.500 --> 00:20:44.780

Some folks say there's a resonance to this place.

383

00:20:45.360 --> 00:20:47.700

Say the town's built on old ley lines,

384

00:20:47.700 --> 00:20:52.040

but the fan hums like it's singing something deep down,

385

00:20:52.100 --> 00:20:54.180

like a tuning fork stabbed into the world.

386

00:20:55.100 --> 00:20:58.220

You grew up here, you learn not to ask questions.

387

00:20:59.000 --> 00:21:01.260

You learn to stay out of them woods after dark.

388

00:21:03.090 --> 00:21:05.470

And you learn that dreams are never just dreams.

389

00:21:06.790 --> 00:21:09.130

Because sometimes those dreams remember you back.

390

00:21:11.030 --> 00:21:14.990

For instance, take Amy, Amy Caldwell.

391

00:21:15.590 --> 00:21:18.010

Some say she came back for a bit after she left, right?

392

00:21:18.010 --> 00:21:21.730

Someone claiming to be her anyway, just for a little while.

393

00:21:22.790 --> 00:21:29.590

She came back in 2015, acting strange and leaving a trail of blood and questions.

394

00:21:31.450 --> 00:21:36.370

Right around that time though, the dreams in town start getting worse.

395

00:21:37.770 --> 00:21:40.590

But you got to realize that the dreams have always been weird here.

396

00:21:40.950 --> 00:21:44.130

People having weird dreams, deep ones, real heavy dreams.

397

00:21:44.730 --> 00:21:48.750

Dreams where you swear you remember things that you never lived.

398

00:21:50.230 --> 00:21:52.550

Dreams where you're like someone else entirely.

399

00:21:54.150 --> 00:21:55.850

And if you're lucky, you wake up.

400

00:21:56.870 --> 00:22:00.310

If not, well, that's Ashwood.

401

00:22:01.730 --> 00:22:06.690

This is a place where memories bend, where the missing never really leave.

402

00:22:07.070 --> 00:22:09.750

Sometimes though, you don't come back the same.

403

00:22:10.770 --> 00:22:12.290

And something in the hollow is listening.

404

00:22:12.290 --> 00:22:15.560

So welcome back to Ashwood.

405

00:22:18.330 --> 00:22:20.610

I can't wait to smell those woods again.

406

00:22:23.010 --> 00:22:24.870

Get out in the friend.

407

00:22:25.610 --> 00:22:28.450

I feel like you need a soundtrack, like dun dun dun.

408

00:22:28.790 --> 00:22:30.190

Oh, there will be a soundtrack.

409

00:22:31.350 --> 00:22:32.450

What do you think I've been working on?

410

00:22:33.230 --> 00:22:35.130

So what I've done here as a means to,

411

00:22:35.130 --> 00:22:37.770

and I call this session zero to introduce everyone's characters,

412

00:22:37.870 --> 00:22:41.530

is I wrote little vignettes for everyone as they arrive into town.

413

00:22:42.250 --> 00:22:46.390

I have, as I shall, as the keeper, taken many liberties

414

00:22:46.390 --> 00:22:52.690

to provide some background for folks and to get us just really started.

415

00:22:52.770 --> 00:22:54.550

And what I'd like to do now is start with Dawn.

416

00:22:55.570 --> 00:22:56.990

Dawn's arrival into Ashwood.

417

00:22:57.010 --> 00:23:02.330

And I would like to set the scene for you, Dawn, and others, if you allow me to.

418

00:23:03.450 --> 00:23:07.610

So your van is rattling like it's held together by hope and paint.

419

00:23:08.670 --> 00:23:09.270

It is.

420

00:23:10.290 --> 00:23:13.450

This van you borrowed from your commune, right?

421

00:23:13.510 --> 00:23:15.310

It's a half camper, half tomb.

422

00:23:15.830 --> 00:23:18.430

The dash buzzes when you hit 60, it's just rattling.

423

00:23:18.610 --> 00:23:22.450

The AC died years ago, and because it's so hot out,

424

00:23:22.530 --> 00:23:27.110

all the vents are blowing this damp air with dust in it.

425

00:23:27.470 --> 00:23:28.930

This is fantastic stuff for you.

426

00:23:28.990 --> 00:23:31.330

It's in the back, got the sleeping pads or whatever.

427

00:23:32.290 --> 00:23:34.970

Your old chipped enamel mugs are sliding around with you,

428

00:23:35.030 --> 00:23:36.370

bouncing around, clattering.

429

00:23:37.030 --> 00:23:39.010

They're well anchored.

430

00:23:39.010 --> 00:23:41.290

I know how to travel at this point.

431

00:23:43.630 --> 00:23:45.170

The heat is really brutal.

432

00:23:45.430 --> 00:23:47.230

It should not be this hot right now.

433

00:23:47.290 --> 00:23:47.770

It should not be.

434

00:23:47.770 --> 00:23:50.910

I probably have to turn on the heat to keep the van from overheating, too.

435

00:23:51.050 --> 00:23:51.530

Probably.

436

00:23:53.110 --> 00:23:57.850

This is like August in Texas hot, not like Southern Ohio hot.

437

00:23:57.930 --> 00:23:58.710

And this is June.

438

00:23:59.390 --> 00:24:00.390

The blacktop ripples.

439

00:24:00.790 --> 00:24:01.710

The air is thick.

440

00:24:02.170 --> 00:24:02.930

It chokes you.

441

00:24:03.030 --> 00:24:06.170

It's like every time you breathe, it tastes like tar and asphalt.

442

00:24:06.750 --> 00:24:09.830

Your shirt or whatever, your tunic.

443

00:24:09.890 --> 00:24:11.390

Is that what your character would be wearing?

444

00:24:12.610 --> 00:24:16.190

Your tunic and hippie beads are clinging to you.

445

00:24:16.290 --> 00:24:18.250

Your hair is plastered down onto you.

446

00:24:18.450 --> 00:24:21.970

Steering wheel's slick and sticky at the same time.

447

00:24:22.390 --> 00:24:25.630

Got my sweaty, wet bandana that I've worn for two days.

448

00:24:26.770 --> 00:24:29.350

FM radio gave up miles and miles ago.

449

00:24:29.410 --> 00:24:31.330

And that's one thing you're going to find out here about Ashwood,

450

00:24:31.650 --> 00:24:33.090

is that FM radio don't work here.

451

00:24:33.650 --> 00:24:37.370

They say it's minerals in the hills or whatever the hell it is,

452

00:24:37.970 --> 00:24:39.710

but All You gets AM.

453

00:24:40.030 --> 00:24:41.150

Always getting through.

454

00:24:41.550 --> 00:24:45.030

There's this faint signal just crackles in and out every now and again.

455

00:24:45.230 --> 00:24:48.570

Pick up a preacher bleeding in, promising salvation.

456

00:24:49.970 --> 00:24:50.990

You all need salvation.

457

00:24:51.170 --> 00:24:53.470

This is all of Ashwood needs salvation, needs saving.

458

00:24:54.910 --> 00:24:55.590

Then you feel it.

459

00:24:55.630 --> 00:24:57.050

You feel a shudder.

460

00:24:57.210 --> 00:24:59.790

Feel the engine cough just once.

461

00:25:00.710 --> 00:25:01.950

And then it coughs again.

462

00:25:03.210 --> 00:25:06.370

And then this floor peels out of you.

463

00:25:06.910 --> 00:25:09.550

Oh, come on, baby, just a little farther.

464

00:25:09.910 --> 00:25:11.910  
Right on the outskirts of Ashwood.

465  
00:25:13.730 --> 00:25:17.870  
Now all you get is these heat waves just rippling up.

466  
00:25:17.870 --> 00:25:18.750  
Greasy shimmers.

467  
00:25:19.410 --> 00:25:22.870  
Silence, except for that ping of your engine as it cools down.

468  
00:25:25.470 --> 00:25:26.750  
Then the air kind of changes.

469  
00:25:27.250 --> 00:25:31.390  
On your left, as you're entering into Ashwood, is the Fenn.

470  
00:25:31.390 --> 00:25:36.990  
And a cool blast of damp air just sort of pulses up and out of the Fenn

471  
00:25:36.990 --> 00:25:39.790  
and washes over you like the Fenn is exhaling.

472  
00:25:42.280 --> 00:25:42.960  
Who'd we lose, Craig?

473  
00:25:44.260 --> 00:25:44.620  
Craig.

474  
00:25:45.040 --> 00:25:45.340  
Yeah.

475

00:25:45.940 --> 00:25:47.160  
OK, we'll see if he comes back.

476  
00:25:48.400 --> 00:25:49.420  
Lance, where did you go?

477  
00:25:49.540 --> 00:25:50.120  
Well done, Lance.

478  
00:25:50.120 --> 00:25:51.660  
The Fenn got him, and he did his disappearing act.

479  
00:25:51.740 --> 00:25:52.540  
Yeah, he did.

480  
00:25:53.780 --> 00:25:54.280  
He'll be back.

481  
00:25:54.280 --> 00:25:55.160  
He'll be back.

482  
00:25:56.660 --> 00:26:01.560  
So that contrast of that furnace hot air and this cool, damp, moist air

483  
00:26:01.560 --> 00:26:04.520  
smells of wet stream bed and leaves.

484  
00:26:04.720 --> 00:26:06.080  
It's really shocking.

485  
00:26:07.400 --> 00:26:08.440  
It's kind of seductive.

486

00:26:09.580 --> 00:26:09.980

Home.

487

00:26:10.940 --> 00:26:14.900

Snakes around you, around your arms, on into your skin.

488

00:26:15.900 --> 00:26:17.440

Draws your eyes down into the hollow.

489

00:26:19.140 --> 00:26:20.520

That's when you hear it.

490

00:26:24.780 --> 00:26:27.940

High-pitched, playful girls' laughter.

491

00:26:28.540 --> 00:26:29.620

Girls on a playground.

492

00:26:31.080 --> 00:26:32.040

Off in the distance.

493

00:26:33.100 --> 00:26:34.060

You know nobody's down there.

494

00:26:34.060 --> 00:26:35.000

There's no playground there.

495

00:26:35.000 --> 00:26:36.600

At least in a playground, you remember.

496

00:26:38.440 --> 00:26:42.080

But you know that sound slides down into your chest.

497

00:26:42.260 --> 00:26:44.140  
Sounds aching to you, familiar.

498  
00:26:45.200 --> 00:26:46.900  
Sounds like every summer you lost.

499  
00:26:47.520 --> 00:26:48.540  
And it sounds like Amy.

500  
00:26:49.180 --> 00:26:49.800  
Don't worry, girl.

501  
00:26:49.800 --> 00:26:50.820  
I hear you.

502  
00:26:51.000 --> 00:26:52.120  
I'm here for you.

503  
00:26:53.600 --> 00:26:54.540  
Dawn, it's drawing you out.

504  
00:26:54.560 --> 00:26:55.360  
So you've got to get out.

505  
00:26:55.380 --> 00:26:56.560  
You can't stop yourself.

506  
00:26:56.680 --> 00:26:57.440  
The door creaks.

507  
00:26:57.740 --> 00:26:59.240  
Shoes are sticky on the tar.

508

00:27:00.860 --> 00:27:01.300

Shoes.

509

00:27:01.900 --> 00:27:02.500

Shoes.

510

00:27:02.960 --> 00:27:05.560

Okay, you're now burned.

511

00:27:05.780 --> 00:27:10.700

Souls plump and blistered on the hot asphalt.

512

00:27:12.420 --> 00:27:13.420

Something's drawing you there.

513

00:27:13.420 --> 00:27:15.000

And then you see it right on the edge.

514

00:27:15.400 --> 00:27:17.500

The old what we'd call the whispering tree.

515

00:27:18.540 --> 00:27:22.300

This giant willow looms right in front of you.

516

00:27:22.320 --> 00:27:24.060

It's calling you over to it.

517

00:27:25.990 --> 00:27:27.130

You can't stop yourself.

518

00:27:28.090 --> 00:27:29.550

What is this sound?

519

00:27:29.910 --> 00:27:32.650

Why is this tree bringing me there?

520

00:27:34.950 --> 00:27:38.970

The closer you get, it seems like the shadow of that tree

521

00:27:38.970 --> 00:27:40.690

just starts swallowing the light.

522

00:27:41.870 --> 00:27:45.710

And you see the big old gnarled trunk barks

523

00:27:45.710 --> 00:27:48.720

carved with decades, decades and decades of initials.

524

00:27:50.710 --> 00:27:52.550

I give the tree a big old hug.

525

00:27:54.210 --> 00:27:55.790

Somewhere in that mess is your mark.

526

00:27:55.830 --> 00:27:56.830

You know it is.

527

00:27:57.070 --> 00:27:58.130

And Amy's mark.

528

00:27:59.770 --> 00:28:01.710

So why don't you roll a spot hidden for me?

529

00:28:02.730 --> 00:28:03.230

Sure.

530

00:28:07.080 --> 00:28:09.040  
So you're going to use two dice, right?

531  
00:28:09.140 --> 00:28:10.800  
A tens dice and a ones dice.

532  
00:28:11.220 --> 00:28:11.400  
A tens and a ones?

533  
00:28:11.400 --> 00:28:12.600  
And the idea here, yep.

534  
00:28:12.860 --> 00:28:14.420  
The idea here is you're going to roll under.

535  
00:28:15.520 --> 00:28:16.900  
Rolling under is a success.

536  
00:28:17.820 --> 00:28:18.240  
Okay.

537  
00:28:19.280 --> 00:28:20.440  
And by how much you roll under,

538  
00:28:20.540 --> 00:28:22.420  
it's going to determine how much of a success you have

539  
00:28:22.420 --> 00:28:23.580  
at spotting something that's hidden.

540  
00:28:23.720 --> 00:28:25.140  
Oh, I certainly didn't roll under.

541

00:28:25.160 --> 00:28:26.080

I rolled a 98.

542

00:28:26.540 --> 00:28:27.240

Oh, boy.

543

00:28:27.540 --> 00:28:30.320

Now that's great because you know what that is?

544

00:28:30.440 --> 00:28:32.000

That's what you would call a fumble.

545

00:28:32.440 --> 00:28:33.100

Oh, yeah.

546

00:28:33.780 --> 00:28:37.700

And that means I get to make shit up about what happens to you.

547

00:28:37.700 --> 00:28:45.540

So what we're going to do is we're going to say that you go in for a closer look

548

00:28:45.540 --> 00:28:47.120

and you give that tree a big old hug

549

00:28:47.120 --> 00:28:49.940

and you poke a little piece of bark right in your eyeball.

550

00:28:50.160 --> 00:28:50.520

Ow.

551

00:28:51.360 --> 00:28:56.240

And so now you can only see out of your right eye for the rest of the session.

552

00:28:57.380 --> 00:28:59.240  
That might come in handy a little bit later.

553  
00:28:59.620 --> 00:29:00.500  
Oh, tree.

554  
00:29:01.460 --> 00:29:02.140  
Well done.

555  
00:29:02.140 --> 00:29:03.600  
I know how that shit feels.

556  
00:29:06.460 --> 00:29:07.360  
Yes, tree.

557  
00:29:07.900 --> 00:29:09.460  
I have been gone too long.

558  
00:29:09.920 --> 00:29:12.080  
You have, right?

559  
00:29:12.500 --> 00:29:17.160  
But you know, in feeling your way around this tree,

560  
00:29:17.440 --> 00:29:22.720  
you do your fingers brush grooves and I don't know, you touch something.

561  
00:29:23.260 --> 00:29:29.320  
It's like the world snaps sideways and your head doesn't catch up.

562  
00:29:30.280 --> 00:29:34.820  
There's a surge of static that just rockets through your bones.

563

00:29:35.500 --> 00:29:40.620

Your ears pop and just for a heartbeat, you're not here.

564

00:29:41.680 --> 00:29:43.780

You're standing on the ravine's edge at night.

565

00:29:44.100 --> 00:29:47.010

Your younger self is frozen in place.

566

00:29:48.880 --> 00:29:50.360

Shadows are swirling below.

567

00:29:50.780 --> 00:29:54.840

Something vast in the bottom of the fen exhales up through the trees.

568

00:29:56.360 --> 00:29:58.000

Roll a sanity check for me.

569

00:30:01.020 --> 00:30:02.960

Let's see if I roll nice and high again.

570

00:30:04.680 --> 00:30:05.680

That's session zero.

571

00:30:05.700 --> 00:30:06.760

Who's going to go insane?

572

00:30:06.920 --> 00:30:08.440

Okay, I rolled a 30.

573

00:30:08.680 --> 00:30:09.680

And what is your sanity?

574

00:30:10.300 --> 00:30:11.660

My sanity is 60.

575

00:30:12.280 --> 00:30:12.480

Awesome.

576

00:30:12.800 --> 00:30:15.420

So your sanity is 60 and you roll a 30.

577

00:30:15.440 --> 00:30:16.180

So that's half.

578

00:30:16.180 --> 00:30:18.680

So you roll basically what's called a hard success.

579

00:30:19.060 --> 00:30:20.980

So you don't just squeak by.

580

00:30:21.120 --> 00:30:23.820

You're like, hell yeah, I got what's about me.

581

00:30:24.060 --> 00:30:26.520

But you still take a point of sanity loss.

582

00:30:27.520 --> 00:30:28.000

Okay.

583

00:30:28.000 --> 00:30:29.600

So now you're at 59.

584

00:30:30.260 --> 00:30:30.720

Okay.

585

00:30:31.480 --> 00:30:33.780

Well, that vision shatters that you had like glass.

586

00:30:34.780 --> 00:30:39.320

Zip your back or you stagger, gripping the bark of that tree a bit.

587

00:30:39.400 --> 00:30:42.840

That hum fades, leaves you baking in the heat.

588

00:30:43.920 --> 00:30:46.200

Your pulse is racing, uneasy.

589

00:30:48.080 --> 00:30:51.300

But you're more certain now than ever that that tree remembers you.

590

00:30:53.220 --> 00:30:55.440

But you finally tear yourself away.

591

00:30:56.020 --> 00:30:57.980

You stumble back to the road, back to your vehicle.

592

00:30:58.000 --> 00:31:00.640

Not exactly sure what the hell you're going to do.

593

00:31:01.060 --> 00:31:02.120

Dead metal in the sun.

594

00:31:02.600 --> 00:31:03.560

You open that door.

595

00:31:04.280 --> 00:31:06.080

That heat hits you like a wall again.

596

00:31:06.960 --> 00:31:11.940

But you see that old, awful flip phone that you borrowed from the commune.

597

00:31:12.640 --> 00:31:16.520

The phone could only be dumber if it had a coiled cord and it was attached to the wall.

598

00:31:17.860 --> 00:31:19.900

You could have sworn you put that in the glove box.

599

00:31:20.900 --> 00:31:21.800

But it's open.

600

00:31:22.560 --> 00:31:23.400

The screen's glowing.

601

00:31:23.480 --> 00:31:24.820

It says one missed call.

602

00:31:25.980 --> 00:31:27.300

From Chuck's garage.

603

00:31:28.060 --> 00:31:32.340

It's a voicemail confirming that Chuck's on his way to get you with his tow truck.

604

00:31:32.800 --> 00:31:33.420

Thank you, Amy.

605

00:31:36.520 --> 00:31:37.560

Star wipe.

606

00:31:40.860 --> 00:31:41.960

Star wipe.

607

00:31:42.800 --> 00:31:44.640

So Dawn, welcome back.

608

00:31:45.160 --> 00:31:49.720

Welcome back to Ashwood and your reacquaintance with the hippie tree,

609

00:31:50.040 --> 00:31:51.280

with the whispering tree.

610

00:31:52.360 --> 00:31:53.960

Ashwood remembers you.

611

00:31:54.900 --> 00:31:56.120

Ashwood remembers you.

612

00:31:58.240 --> 00:31:59.640

I'd like to move on to Harry now.

613

00:32:00.540 --> 00:32:01.260

Oh, yeah.

614

00:32:01.260 --> 00:32:08.600

Harry is cruising down the highway with the windows open so that he can smell his hometown again.

615

00:32:09.220 --> 00:32:14.300

He wants to feel the way the breeze is blowing.

616

00:32:14.560 --> 00:32:19.840

Maybe he'll get a chance to figure out whether or not there's any gaming season right around now.

617

00:32:20.340 --> 00:32:21.100

Sniffing out the window.

618

00:32:21.580 --> 00:32:23.400

It's too early for the deer to be in rut.

619

00:32:25.260 --> 00:32:26.460

Yeah, yeah, it's too early.

620

00:32:26.560 --> 00:32:27.180

It's only June.

621

00:32:27.200 --> 00:32:28.600

No deer hunting this time of year.

622

00:32:28.620 --> 00:32:30.340

But maybe the fish are biting.

623

00:32:30.340 --> 00:32:33.100

I'll bet they're jumping down by the dam.

624

00:32:33.140 --> 00:32:33.660

Dam number five.

625

00:32:33.660 --> 00:32:37.520

Let me tell you about your ride into Ashwood here.

626

00:32:37.880 --> 00:32:41.160

The glassman security van is limping into Ashwood.

627

00:32:41.480 --> 00:32:43.100

It's like a dying animal now.

628

00:32:43.940 --> 00:32:46.720

Each rattle sounds longer than the last rattle, right?

629

00:32:46.720 --> 00:32:48.560

Your engine light's been flirting with you,

630

00:32:48.600 --> 00:32:53.680

popping on and off since Athens, Ohio, coming over from Cincinnati.

631

00:32:54.980 --> 00:32:56.200

It's overheating now, right?

632

00:32:56.200 --> 00:32:57.620

Your gauge is screaming red.

633

00:32:58.240 --> 00:32:59.900

Steam's seeping up from under the hood.

634

00:33:00.980 --> 00:33:03.600

Oh, man, I'm going to have to pee in the radiator.

635

00:33:04.240 --> 00:33:05.940

This isn't going to be good at all.

636

00:33:07.300 --> 00:33:09.460

But that sun is merciless, man.

637

00:33:09.460 --> 00:33:10.620

It's just beaten down on you.

638

00:33:10.660 --> 00:33:11.220

You can feel it.

639

00:33:11.320 --> 00:33:12.460

It's not gold-worn.

640

00:33:12.800 --> 00:33:13.280

It's white.

641

00:33:14.020 --> 00:33:16.140

It's like washed out the sky hot.

642

00:33:16.920 --> 00:33:19.640

Sweat rolls down your temples, stinging your eyes.

643

00:33:19.860 --> 00:33:21.960

It's patching, sticking to your shirt and patches,

644

00:33:22.040 --> 00:33:24.960

even though that old air conditioner in there just wasn't keeping up.

645

00:33:25.480 --> 00:33:27.940

So you coast the van off the road onto the gravel.

646

00:33:28.460 --> 00:33:29.280

It's crunching.

647

00:33:29.280 --> 00:33:30.720

It's a familiar sound.

648

00:33:30.900 --> 00:33:32.320

This is something that you remember fondly.

649

00:33:34.100 --> 00:33:37.200

Reminds me of going out into the woods to drink some beers with the buddies.

650

00:33:38.200 --> 00:33:39.740

All right, this isn't so bad.

651

00:33:39.760 --> 00:33:41.140

This isn't as bad as it seems.

652

00:33:41.360 --> 00:33:42.700

The gravel into Chuck's garage.

653

00:33:42.860 --> 00:33:45.020

Buildings, nothing but cinder block bones.

654

00:33:45.360 --> 00:33:46.880

Paints peeling off and strips.

655

00:33:48.020 --> 00:33:49.080

Hand-painted sign.

656

00:33:49.700 --> 00:33:51.420

Wow, I really let my mind wander.

657

00:33:51.900 --> 00:33:53.380

Yeah, signs sagging with age.

658

00:33:54.080 --> 00:33:56.500

You see his tow truck out there, baking in the sun.

659

00:33:57.100 --> 00:34:00.240

Tires kind of melted soft, a little dry rotten.

660

00:34:01.120 --> 00:34:03.000

Slumped like a drunk uncle under the tree.

661

00:34:03.380 --> 00:34:05.560

Speaking as a drunk uncle, I know what this looks like.

662

00:34:06.720 --> 00:34:07.640

You hear wind chimes.

663

00:34:08.560 --> 00:34:10.360

This is the first thing you really notice.

664

00:34:10.860 --> 00:34:11.520

Made out of wrenches.

665

00:34:12.500 --> 00:34:13.300

Faint tinkling.

666

00:34:14.400 --> 00:34:16.199

That Chuck, he's always got a good...

667

00:34:16.199 --> 00:34:16.699

He does.

668

00:34:16.800 --> 00:34:18.560

He's a crafty fellow, that Chuck.

669

00:34:19.460 --> 00:34:21.040

You learn a lot if you hang out with Chuck.

670

00:34:21.080 --> 00:34:23.719

Every note is kind of sharp, over-metallic,

671

00:34:24.080 --> 00:34:26.159

like the place is whining in pain.

672

00:34:26.500 --> 00:34:29.100

But inside, the air is not much better though,

673

00:34:29.179 --> 00:34:30.699

but it does smell of oil.

674

00:34:31.980 --> 00:34:33.679

Sweat goes to cigarette smoke.

675

00:34:34.800 --> 00:34:36.699

Some people say that smells like money.

676

00:34:37.320 --> 00:34:39.500

And I have a feeling I'm going to be paying some money

677

00:34:39.500 --> 00:34:41.020

to Chuck here today because that...

678

00:34:42.020 --> 00:34:43.300

My van is not doing well right now.

679

00:34:43.320 --> 00:34:45.300

It's thick enough inside to taste though.

680

00:34:45.800 --> 00:34:46.980

But at least you're out of the glare.

681

00:34:47.320 --> 00:34:48.080

It's a little bit darker.

682

00:34:48.639 --> 00:34:49.360

It's not so bad.

683

00:34:49.520 --> 00:34:51.400

Behind the desk, there's a young woman.

684

00:34:51.639 --> 00:34:53.520

Popsicle stick hanging out of her mouth.

685

00:34:53.520 --> 00:34:56.800

She's got her phone cradled to one side.

686

00:34:56.840 --> 00:35:00.660

She's typing on the computer with her other pixie cut,

687

00:35:00.920 --> 00:35:04.080

dark hair, black makeup, raccoon eyes,

688

00:35:04.640 --> 00:35:06.500

t-shirt that says the Ramones on it.

689

00:35:06.500 --> 00:35:08.960

It's all stained and got holes in it.

690

00:35:09.560 --> 00:35:10.160

20-something.

691

00:35:11.360 --> 00:35:12.580

Let me guess, your name's Charlene.

692

00:35:12.580 --> 00:35:14.340

She looks up at you with a grin.

693

00:35:14.920 --> 00:35:15.680

Razor sharp.

694

00:35:16.160 --> 00:35:17.600

And this is Alyssa Hinesman.

695

00:35:18.000 --> 00:35:18.940

This is Chuck's kid.

696

00:35:20.180 --> 00:35:22.480

Well, I knew you must be a Chuck of some sort.

697

00:35:22.480 --> 00:35:26.760

She says, uh, holy hell.

698

00:35:28.420 --> 00:35:29.420

You gotta be Harry.

699

00:35:30.180 --> 00:35:32.320

Dad said you'd swing through here sooner or later.

700

00:35:32.840 --> 00:35:34.040

You remembered me?

701

00:35:34.040 --> 00:35:35.300

I can't believe it.

702

00:35:35.460 --> 00:35:35.860

Wow.

703

00:35:36.200 --> 00:35:38.060

Dad said you'd be through here sooner or later.

704

00:35:38.380 --> 00:35:40.060

Says you used to be legendary.

705

00:35:40.240 --> 00:35:40.860

Oh, gosh, yeah.

706

00:35:41.040 --> 00:35:44.500

That time you jumped the tracks like some movie stunt

707

00:35:44.500 --> 00:35:46.920

and you nearly got creamed by that train.

708

00:35:47.300 --> 00:35:49.260

He never stops talking about it.

709

00:35:49.280 --> 00:35:51.140

Hey, Dad, she shouts.

710

00:35:51.140 --> 00:35:54.080

I'm glad my parents left town not long after that

711

00:35:54.080 --> 00:35:56.200

because I'm glad they never got that story.

712

00:35:56.260 --> 00:35:57.400

That would have gotten us so much.

713

00:35:57.620 --> 00:36:00.020

She shouts over her shoulders.

714

00:36:00.240 --> 00:36:01.420

Hey, Dad, he's here.

715

00:36:02.640 --> 00:36:05.380

And then you see the service bay door swing open

716

00:36:05.380 --> 00:36:06.380

and here comes Chuck.

717

00:36:08.480 --> 00:36:10.280

Harry smooths his hair a little bit

718

00:36:10.280 --> 00:36:12.380

just to try to get some of the sweat off

719

00:36:12.380 --> 00:36:13.540

so he can see his...

720

00:36:13.540 --> 00:36:15.280

Wipes his hand on his pants real quick

721

00:36:15.280 --> 00:36:18.460

so he can reach out and give a good handshake to old Chuck.

722

00:36:19.220 --> 00:36:20.860

Overalls greased, stained.

723

00:36:21.320 --> 00:36:23.140

Hair is kind of frizzled, wild.

724

00:36:23.400 --> 00:36:24.180

Shoulder length.

725

00:36:24.700 --> 00:36:25.720

Stinks of weed.

726

00:36:26.660 --> 00:36:27.960

Smudges of grease on his face.

727

00:36:29.460 --> 00:36:31.120

Chuck, you haven't changed a day.

728

00:36:31.760 --> 00:36:32.900

You didn't age a bit.

729

00:36:32.960 --> 00:36:34.140

What's going on, man?

730

00:36:34.340 --> 00:36:35.740

It's so good to see you again.

731

00:36:35.900 --> 00:36:36.960

You go in for the handshake.

732

00:36:37.020 --> 00:36:39.480

He opens his arms up and goes in for the bear hug

733

00:36:39.480 --> 00:36:40.080

and he says...

734

00:36:41.360 --> 00:36:41.960

Oh, oh, yeah.

735

00:36:42.540 --> 00:36:45.300

Harry fucking, Harry fucking Glassman, man.

736

00:36:47.420 --> 00:36:49.020

Oh, God, it's so good to be back, Chuck.

737

00:36:49.080 --> 00:36:49.940

I can't believe it.

738

00:36:50.040 --> 00:36:51.100

I can't believe that.

739

00:36:51.100 --> 00:36:53.660

Listen, maybe we're just talking about us, man.

740

00:36:53.660 --> 00:36:54.640

How does this happen?

741

00:36:54.660 --> 00:36:55.840

It's a weird way the world works,

742

00:36:55.840 --> 00:36:57.920

but you got to come check this out.

743

00:36:58.320 --> 00:36:59.520

This is just too weird.

744

00:36:59.520 --> 00:37:00.800

You got to see this, right?

745

00:37:01.440 --> 00:37:02.300

Let me show you something.

746

00:37:02.440 --> 00:37:02.800

What do you got?

747

00:37:02.920 --> 00:37:03.240

What you got?

748

00:37:03.460 --> 00:37:03.500

Got a good one?

749

00:37:03.500 --> 00:37:05.580

So it takes you outside, around the back.

750

00:37:06.500 --> 00:37:08.640

Again, that heat slams right into you.

751

00:37:10.440 --> 00:37:11.940

Yeah, it's pretty brutal.

752

00:37:12.700 --> 00:37:14.800

You walk around the back of the shop

753

00:37:14.800 --> 00:37:16.560

and there's a half torn tarp.

754

00:37:16.580 --> 00:37:17.940

This tarp is like shredded.

755

00:37:18.420 --> 00:37:19.100

Half of it's shredded.

756

00:37:19.100 --> 00:37:21.340

Half of it looks like it'd been under plywood or something,

757

00:37:21.340 --> 00:37:22.480

but it's covering up something.

758

00:37:22.700 --> 00:37:25.140

An old wrecked LeMans.

759

00:37:25.220 --> 00:37:27.140

It's 1977 LeMans.

760

00:37:27.360 --> 00:37:28.740

What you got under there, Chuck?

761

00:37:30.100 --> 00:37:31.240

What year is that again?

762

00:37:31.360 --> 00:37:33.320

He looks at you like it's a 77.

763

00:37:33.780 --> 00:37:35.400

This is your car, man.

764

00:37:36.140 --> 00:37:37.000

He's like the whole front.

765

00:37:37.660 --> 00:37:38.880

What do you mean my car?

766

00:37:39.600 --> 00:37:40.680

I had a car like that.

767

00:37:41.420 --> 00:37:43.060

My parents had a car like that,

768

00:37:43.060 --> 00:37:44.200

but we sold it when we moved.

769

00:37:44.220 --> 00:37:45.600

The whole front end's crumpled in.

770

00:37:45.640 --> 00:37:46.600

The windshield shattered.

771

00:37:46.780 --> 00:37:48.600

Hoods twisted like at loss of fight.

772

00:37:49.360 --> 00:37:50.400

He's like, this is it.

773

00:37:50.460 --> 00:37:51.900

This is the car we almost died in.

774

00:37:52.000 --> 00:37:53.340

We jumped the Miller Street tracks

775

00:37:53.340 --> 00:37:54.920

after Rob's after prom party.

776

00:37:55.080 --> 00:37:56.880

The after after prom party, right?

777

00:37:56.940 --> 00:37:59.120

That train missed us by inches, man.

778

00:38:00.000 --> 00:38:01.960

This is that self-same car.

779

00:38:02.340 --> 00:38:03.960

Not just another one that looks like it.

780

00:38:04.060 --> 00:38:04.780

You're kidding me, man.

781

00:38:04.860 --> 00:38:08.340

I bought it off a Holman when he sold me the shop.

782

00:38:08.500 --> 00:38:10.840

He's like, I keep it around for the kids, right?

783

00:38:11.120 --> 00:38:12.100

Scare them straight.

784

00:38:15.120 --> 00:38:17.880

Well, I'm glad it's at least a useful piece of junk

785

00:38:17.880 --> 00:38:18.940

that you got in the back here.

786

00:38:18.940 --> 00:38:20.140

This is amazing, man.

787

00:38:20.700 --> 00:38:23.060

All these memories come flying back to me.

788

00:38:23.200 --> 00:38:25.100

The heat's pressing harder on you now.

789

00:38:25.140 --> 00:38:27.160

You start to feel this pressure in your ears.

790

00:38:28.000 --> 00:38:28.880

Little footing.

791

00:38:29.920 --> 00:38:32.540

I'm going to go up and sniff out the car a little bit

792

00:38:32.540 --> 00:38:35.140

and say, yeah, it still smells like puke from that.

793

00:38:36.440 --> 00:38:37.640

My date that night.

794

00:38:37.840 --> 00:38:38.180

Oh, God.

795

00:38:38.480 --> 00:38:40.600

The sky suddenly gets too bright on you.

796

00:38:41.720 --> 00:38:43.460

The air, the air is buzzing around you.

797

00:38:43.460 --> 00:38:44.260

It's too loud.

798

00:38:45.080 --> 00:38:51.140

And deep inside, deep inside past that hairy selective memory,

799

00:38:52.620 --> 00:38:53.760

you know you weren't there.

800

00:38:55.360 --> 00:38:56.300

You remember that night.

801

00:38:56.300 --> 00:38:58.320

You remember Rob's after-after party,

802

00:38:58.960 --> 00:39:00.380

but you never jumped any tracks.

803

00:39:01.580 --> 00:39:04.320

You absolutely know deep down on the core of you

804

00:39:04.320 --> 00:39:06.100

that you did not jump these tracks.

805

00:39:07.200 --> 00:39:08.540

And yet, here it is, though.

806

00:39:09.280 --> 00:39:11.480

Right here's this Hulk, this relic,

807

00:39:11.680 --> 00:39:12.880

something you never lived.

808

00:39:13.660 --> 00:39:16.400

It's just sweating, glaring at you.

809

00:39:16.700 --> 00:39:20.740

To break the moment, Alyssa kind of leans in.

810

00:39:20.760 --> 00:39:22.260

Says he even kept the registration.

811

00:39:22.980 --> 00:39:24.800

Makes the story hit even harder.

812

00:39:26.880 --> 00:39:29.520

My dad would be real interested about to hear that.

813

00:39:29.840 --> 00:39:30.940

I'd love to see that.

814

00:39:31.180 --> 00:39:33.500

I'm going to take a picture of that and send it back to him.

815

00:39:34.300 --> 00:39:35.220

Oh, that reminds me.

816

00:39:35.220 --> 00:39:37.220

I want to get a selfie of us before we go

817

00:39:37.220 --> 00:39:41.880

because I'm going to send them some messages

818

00:39:41.880 --> 00:39:44.500

about all the good times, you know, like the memories.

819

00:39:44.520 --> 00:39:45.480

This is amazing.

820

00:39:46.180 --> 00:39:50.540

There is a, it's a picture of the actual registration.

821

00:39:52.380 --> 00:39:54.100

And it was registered to you.

822

00:39:55.120 --> 00:39:57.260

So what I want you to do now, that's weird.

823

00:39:57.400 --> 00:39:59.280

I thought that was in my dad's name.

824

00:40:00.600 --> 00:40:02.620

What you're going to do now for me, Harry,

825

00:40:02.800 --> 00:40:05.620

is you're going to roll sanity.

826

00:40:07.600 --> 00:40:08.240

Oh, yeah, yeah.

827

00:40:09.920 --> 00:40:10.660

Sanity.

828

00:40:10.980 --> 00:40:12.300

Where is my sanity number?

829

00:40:12.320 --> 00:40:12.790

Uh-oh.

830

00:40:14.680 --> 00:40:15.520

Ooh, boy.

831

00:40:16.560 --> 00:40:17.860

Even odds here.

832

00:40:18.580 --> 00:40:19.020

Oof.

833

00:40:19.480 --> 00:40:20.760

85 over 50.

834

00:40:21.060 --> 00:40:22.380

Ooh, definitely not good.

835

00:40:22.800 --> 00:40:23.540

Yikes.

836

00:40:25.740 --> 00:40:28.410

That's what eternal optimism gets you.

837

00:40:31.440 --> 00:40:35.200

All of that buzzing, then the world goes quiet.

838

00:40:35.920 --> 00:40:38.300

Burns into your eyes, that registration.

839

00:40:40.700 --> 00:40:43.360

You don't remember this.

840

00:40:43.780 --> 00:40:45.420

Or did this really happen?

841

00:40:46.520 --> 00:40:48.760

Or maybe you've forgotten too much.

842

00:40:49.820 --> 00:40:55.760

So you're going to take 1d3 plus 1 damage to your sanity.

843

00:40:57.080 --> 00:40:58.100

Are you rolling that or am I?

844

00:40:58.100 --> 00:40:58.900

You're rolling it.

845

00:41:01.580 --> 00:41:03.060

Okay, 1d3.

846

00:41:03.520 --> 00:41:06.340

I forgot, that would be 2 plus 1.

847

00:41:07.960 --> 00:41:09.400

So that's 3 points of damage.

848

00:41:09.400 --> 00:41:12.720

3 points of damage down on your sanity.

849

00:41:13.620 --> 00:41:18.740

And just as a reminder, if you end up taking 6 or more in one shot,

850

00:41:18.900 --> 00:41:23.280

you go temporarily insane and I get to take over your character.

851

00:41:24.700 --> 00:41:26.160

So this will be good.

852

00:41:28.200 --> 00:41:32.180

You know, there's a lot of things that I did in my youth,

853

00:41:32.180 --> 00:41:37.340

but I don't remember ever having sex with a parrot, as they say.

854

00:41:38.060 --> 00:41:40.680

Well, you come back to it.

855

00:41:41.060 --> 00:41:43.840

That's my snark laugh through it.

856

00:41:43.860 --> 00:41:45.320

Oh, is it laugh through it?

857

00:41:45.400 --> 00:41:46.360

That's your snark?

858

00:41:46.360 --> 00:41:48.940

Laugh through the snark, laugh through the pain.

859

00:41:49.140 --> 00:41:50.040

I like that.

860

00:41:50.420 --> 00:41:55.020

So this whole idea of snark, which is a new category of character characteristic

861

00:41:55.860 --> 00:42:02.160

to define us as Gen Xers, is used to protect us from the psychic damage.

862

00:42:03.200 --> 00:42:08.300

And so you have an opportunity when you use snark to either recover some

863

00:42:08.300 --> 00:42:12.580

or make the psychic damage less or some other sort of benefit,

864

00:42:12.580 --> 00:42:13.900

but that wasn't very good.

865

00:42:13.900 --> 00:42:15.180

So I'm going to say you don't get any.

866

00:42:15.360 --> 00:42:16.980

You have to do better next time.

867

00:42:21.640 --> 00:42:23.400

Trying to figure out how to use this.

868

00:42:23.560 --> 00:42:24.160

Oh, yeah.

869

00:42:24.200 --> 00:42:25.500

So you have to think about this.

870

00:42:25.940 --> 00:42:29.080

Well, right about the time you come back to it,

871

00:42:29.080 --> 00:42:34.520

you hear Elissa yell out from the inside that there's a tow he's got to go pick up.

872

00:42:34.940 --> 00:42:37.940

And he tells you, he's like, hey, dude, how long are you in town for?

873

00:42:38.020 --> 00:42:39.040

Are you going to be here in town?

874

00:42:39.760 --> 00:42:40.420

Let's hook up.

875

00:42:40.680 --> 00:42:41.580

Yeah, I'll be around.

876

00:42:41.940 --> 00:42:42.280

I'm around.

877

00:42:42.400 --> 00:42:43.260

I'm going to do some hunting.

878

00:42:43.340 --> 00:42:44.320

I'm going to do some fishing.

879

00:42:44.780 --> 00:42:45.860

You want to go out?

880

00:42:45.860 --> 00:42:46.760

You want to go out someplace?

881

00:42:46.980 --> 00:42:48.740

You want to go out and hang out?

882

00:42:48.960 --> 00:42:49.500

Or you want to go?

883

00:42:49.700 --> 00:42:51.400

Meet me tonight at the Cuckoo's Nest.

884

00:42:52.500 --> 00:42:53.080

Cuckoo's Nest.

885

00:42:53.360 --> 00:42:53.940

Yeah, all right.

886

00:42:54.060 --> 00:42:54.240

Yep.

887

00:42:54.720 --> 00:42:59.060

It's a bar slash nightclub that's been in this town since the early 70s.

888

00:42:59.820 --> 00:43:00.760

I'll meet you there.

889

00:43:00.820 --> 00:43:03.400

I'm going to go take this run.

890

00:43:03.580 --> 00:43:05.880

Elissa will get you set up with a loaner or something.

891

00:43:06.380 --> 00:43:07.940

So we'll hook up later.

892

00:43:09.040 --> 00:43:09.440

Oh, OK.

893

00:43:09.460 --> 00:43:09.760

Yeah, right.

894

00:43:09.800 --> 00:43:11.040

I'll meet you at your table right now.

895

00:43:13.440 --> 00:43:14.160

Welcome, Harry.

896

00:43:14.300 --> 00:43:15.320

Freaking car.

897

00:43:19.400 --> 00:43:20.520

Oh, Bex.

898

00:43:20.840 --> 00:43:21.860

Bex, Bex, Bex.

899

00:43:23.100 --> 00:43:23.900

Bex is next.

900

00:43:24.200 --> 00:43:25.000

All right.

901

00:43:26.020 --> 00:43:26.640

Bex Lex.

902

00:43:26.640 --> 00:43:31.460

So Bex, the thing is here is that your mother is in the memory care facility here,

903

00:43:32.220 --> 00:43:36.760

which kind of requires you to come back to this shithole like every quarter.

904

00:43:38.480 --> 00:43:44.080

So this is not the, you know, you haven't just pulled up stakes and left and not come

905

00:43:44.080 --> 00:43:44.900

back in 30 years.

906

00:43:44.920 --> 00:43:47.460

You're back here probably more frequently than everybody else.

907

00:43:48.060 --> 00:43:52.900

But I think you could measure your duration in minutes when you're back here.

908

00:43:52.900 --> 00:43:57.740

You could drive it blind back, you know, driving south from Cleveland.

909

00:43:58.940 --> 00:44:00.520

You've made this trip so many times.

910

00:44:00.940 --> 00:44:02.880

It doesn't rattle you anymore.

911

00:44:03.060 --> 00:44:05.960

It's like just a slow toothache now.

912

00:44:06.300 --> 00:44:07.500

Same shit, different day.

913

00:44:08.340 --> 00:44:09.700

Yeah, but just gnaws at you.

914

00:44:09.960 --> 00:44:11.140

But that air is a furnace.

915

00:44:11.360 --> 00:44:14.980

It's thick and metallic, pressing down on you, oppressive.

916

00:44:15.660 --> 00:44:18.880

It's that bleached white sky, sort of blue around the edges.

917

00:44:19.440 --> 00:44:20.540

But that's about all.

918

00:44:20.540 --> 00:44:25.480

That yellow-white, it's like a blanket, just baking everything underneath of there.

919

00:44:25.680 --> 00:44:27.240

And beside you in the car is your mother.

920

00:44:28.080 --> 00:44:31.220

She's there fidgeting in the passenger seat.

921

00:44:31.420 --> 00:44:35.760

Her moustache, Sandra Lexington, 84 now, frail.

922

00:44:36.080 --> 00:44:38.840

And even in this heat, she's got a quilted sweater on.

923

00:44:39.720 --> 00:44:45.140

Her lips are kind of moving silently, maybe half hymns, broken fragments,

924

00:44:45.600 --> 00:44:46.460

tumbling out of her mouth.

925

00:44:46.460 --> 00:44:48.780

Did I tell you about the time I met the Reverend?

926

00:44:48.780 --> 00:44:51.200

Was it Sunday today?

927

00:44:52.760 --> 00:44:55.480

Do you still work at that funeral place, Rebecca?

928

00:44:57.360 --> 00:45:00.160

Kind of lands like a bruise a little bit.

929

00:45:00.460 --> 00:45:03.910

Just that poking, that sub-epidermal bruise.

930

00:45:05.880 --> 00:45:08.100

Sandra was never really a mother to you.

931

00:45:08.100 --> 00:45:10.080

She was more like a pulpit with legs.

932

00:45:11.360 --> 00:45:14.300

Holier than thou, always ready to cut you down in the name of God.

933

00:45:14.880 --> 00:45:17.700

The church was her weapon and Pastor Bob was her hammer.

934

00:45:18.260 --> 00:45:19.680

Good old Pastor Bob.

935

00:45:20.500 --> 00:45:22.180

He practically lived at your house.

936

00:45:22.500 --> 00:45:25.580

Bible in hand, that smug fucking smile on his face.

937

00:45:27.060 --> 00:45:30.780

Cornering you in the kitchen, in the hallway, goddamn bedroom.

938

00:45:31.480 --> 00:45:31.940

Creepy.

939

00:45:32.760 --> 00:45:35.720

Your mother'd stand be standing right beside him, right behind him.

940

00:45:35.920 --> 00:45:40.380

She was always at heel, just nodding like you were the devil they'd been called to drive out.

941

00:45:40.900 --> 00:45:42.480

That's the furnace you grew up in.

942

00:45:42.880 --> 00:45:44.460

I'd like to hit him with my car.

943

00:45:45.780 --> 00:45:47.480

Hell yeah, you never forgot that burn.

944

00:45:47.480 --> 00:45:49.460

You loath this town.

945

00:45:50.160 --> 00:45:52.840

Loathe it the way it seeps into you every time it comes back.

946

00:45:53.020 --> 00:45:54.780

You built your life in Cleveland, right?

947

00:45:54.780 --> 00:45:56.540

You carved out this place.

948

00:45:56.780 --> 00:45:59.600

You're someone who's stronger, who's louder, untouchable.

949

00:45:59.960 --> 00:46:02.760

But Ashwood still smells like 1992 back here.

950

00:46:02.920 --> 00:46:08.360

Cut grass and exhaust and rusty chain link fences and basketball hoops with no nets.

951

00:46:08.980 --> 00:46:11.680

Voices that always told you to shut up and sit down.

952

00:46:12.320 --> 00:46:13.160

But you never did.

953

00:46:13.800 --> 00:46:15.020

You're the one who stood up.

954

00:46:15.340 --> 00:46:16.160

You squared off.

955

00:46:16.320 --> 00:46:16.960

Damn straight.

956

00:46:16.960 --> 00:46:18.800

You're the one who screamed back.

957

00:46:19.440 --> 00:46:22.440

Velveteen, your band on stage, the stage that barely held together.

958

00:46:22.560 --> 00:46:28.120

It's sweat and lipstick and rage drowning out the silence of this fucking town

959

00:46:28.120 --> 00:46:29.540

that tried to bury you.

960

00:46:29.920 --> 00:46:30.720

And you're still here.

961

00:46:30.800 --> 00:46:31.660

You're a survivor.

962

00:46:32.600 --> 00:46:35.560

Did you pull into a lot of Ashwood Pines memory care?

963

00:46:36.240 --> 00:46:42.760

And this is a reasonably, let's say newish building in the last 30, 40 years.

964

00:46:42.900 --> 00:46:44.280

But it's on the grounds of the old.

965

00:46:44.280 --> 00:46:51.660

There used to be a small, private Catholic college here that's long since been abandoned.

966

00:46:52.780 --> 00:46:54.260

And it's on those grounds.

967

00:46:54.720 --> 00:46:58.260

It's kind of tan brick, fake shutters, cube-shaped.

968

00:46:58.820 --> 00:47:01.620

Tries to pretend nothing ever changes here because, I mean, frankly,

969

00:47:01.860 --> 00:47:04.600

for the people inside, they wouldn't be able to tell the difference anyway.

970

00:47:05.300 --> 00:47:11.100

The heat is radiating off the parking lot, suffocating pulses, pulsing waves,

971

00:47:11.960 --> 00:47:14.680

blurring the building into something unreal.

972

00:47:15.420 --> 00:47:18.660

Your mom's voice crackles beside you, cackling.

973

00:47:18.800 --> 00:47:20.740

She doesn't remember you paid for this place.

974

00:47:21.220 --> 00:47:22.660

She doesn't remember your band.

975

00:47:22.760 --> 00:47:26.520

She doesn't remember your fights, your survival, your struggles.

976

00:47:27.540 --> 00:47:30.040

But some fragment still remembers to hate you.

977

00:47:30.260 --> 00:47:34.780

Your tattoos and your defiance and the ways that you exist without apologies.

978

00:47:35.920 --> 00:47:38.680

Get her out and you walk her inside and that's when it hits you.

979

00:47:38.680 --> 00:47:43.800

The air, the smell of microwave peas and bleach and processed hope

980

00:47:43.800 --> 00:47:47.280

place smells where people are warehoused until the world gives up on them.

981

00:47:47.880 --> 00:47:50.580

The walls hum with the air conditioning, but you're still sweating.

982

00:47:51.300 --> 00:47:53.160

This is not going to stop for a little while.

983

00:47:53.240 --> 00:47:54.560

Still suffocating.

984

00:47:55.140 --> 00:47:57.420

No matter how cool they keep it in these hallways,

985

00:47:57.740 --> 00:48:02.320

Ashwood itself is too hot and too heavy and too hungry.

986

00:48:03.280 --> 00:48:04.900

Something it just got to get away from.

987

00:48:05.000 --> 00:48:05.900

It's fucking hell.

988

00:48:06.520 --> 00:48:06.960

Indeed.

989

00:48:07.520 --> 00:48:13.100

But halfway to your mom's room, she suddenly stops and grips your arm

990

00:48:13.100 --> 00:48:17.580

tighter than she should, like old, gnarled, 84-year-old talons.

991

00:48:18.320 --> 00:48:19.920

She draws herself up straight.

992

00:48:20.500 --> 00:48:21.640

Her voice sharpens.

993

00:48:21.940 --> 00:48:23.040

Her shoulders go back.

994

00:48:23.340 --> 00:48:26.580

Her eyes clear and she looks at you dead in the eyes and said,

995

00:48:26.620 --> 00:48:29.560

Rebecca, she came here.

996

00:48:30.940 --> 00:48:35.640

And she said, the door, that door is still open.

997

00:48:36.820 --> 00:48:40.720

She's got this bit of a sneer on her face, a little bit of indignation.

998

00:48:41.160 --> 00:48:42.200

And then you just see it.

999

00:48:42.200 --> 00:48:46.620

You see the curtain come back over and her shoulders droop again

1000

00:48:46.620 --> 00:48:48.940

and the glaze on her eyes.

1001

00:48:49.180 --> 00:48:51.900

And she released your arm like she was never even there.

1002

00:48:52.460 --> 00:48:55.320

There's a nurse's station that you're passing by on your right.

1003

00:48:55.460 --> 00:48:56.420

And there's a nurse.

1004

00:48:56.680 --> 00:48:59.300

She's got permed hair, friendly draw.

1005

00:48:59.380 --> 00:49:02.260

She waves you down and you know this is Mary Sue Allen.

1006

00:49:02.500 --> 00:49:04.920

She's an old classmate wearing pale blue scrubs now.

1007

00:49:04.920 --> 00:49:11.060

She says, Bex, are you back here because of Amy?

1008

00:49:12.280 --> 00:49:12.840

Sadly.

1009

00:49:14.080 --> 00:49:15.540

You know what, Amy?

1010

00:49:16.000 --> 00:49:20.340

She used to come in here and sit with your mama, hours sometimes.

1011

00:49:20.940 --> 00:49:23.800

Always had a Bible in her lap asking about the family,

1012

00:49:24.740 --> 00:49:28.060

about Wilbur, the old farm, weird stuff.

1013

00:49:29.340 --> 00:49:31.580

I swear some nights, though, I'd hear her footsteps

1014

00:49:31.580 --> 00:49:33.780

after I lucked up like she would never left.

1015

00:49:34.920 --> 00:49:39.620

She just kind of tuts at herself and turns around and walks away.

1016

00:49:40.280 --> 00:49:40.860

Yeah.

1017

00:49:41.860 --> 00:49:43.440

Yeah, but now you're in your mom's room.

1018

00:49:43.560 --> 00:49:44.800

You get her back to your room.

1019

00:49:45.180 --> 00:49:47.440

And this room is dark.

1020

00:49:47.860 --> 00:49:48.980

Shades are partially drawn.

1021

00:49:49.120 --> 00:49:50.580

The light is streaking through.

1022

00:49:50.760 --> 00:49:54.300

It's like casting gray bars onto the high traffic carpet.

1023

00:49:55.300 --> 00:49:59.980

And it smells like lilac body powder and dust in here.

1024

00:50:00.940 --> 00:50:02.100

It's like my old house.

1025

00:50:02.100 --> 00:50:06.820

Yeah, Sandra, she sinks into a recliner with a bit of a soft side

1026

00:50:06.820 --> 00:50:09.000

kind of still tutting and murmuring to herself.

1027

00:50:09.580 --> 00:50:13.360

That AM radio that's always fricking on in this place.

1028

00:50:13.660 --> 00:50:16.400

And you can hear that annoying preacher in the background.

1029

00:50:20.710 --> 00:50:21.790

Kingdom of God.

1030

00:50:31.410 --> 00:50:33.630

Very thin AM static.

1031

00:50:34.490 --> 00:50:35.330

Roll me a spot hidden.

1032

00:50:36.430 --> 00:50:37.190

All right.

1033

00:50:42.760 --> 00:50:44.100

60 out of 60.

1034

00:50:44.300 --> 00:50:45.440

Ooh, well, that's a pass.

1035

00:50:46.260 --> 00:50:47.420

I might see something.

1036

00:50:47.680 --> 00:50:48.680

That's a pass.

1037

00:50:49.740 --> 00:50:51.360

You might see something.

1038

00:50:51.680 --> 00:50:53.320

Indeed, you do.

1039

00:50:53.700 --> 00:50:54.980

And let me share it with you.

1040

00:50:56.020 --> 00:50:58.280

And now all these things like artifacts and whatnot

1041

00:50:58.280 --> 00:51:00.960

that I'm going to show you guys will be in our,

1042

00:51:01.160 --> 00:51:06.180

I will load up to our Discord files so that you can see them.

1043

00:51:06.740 --> 00:51:10.240

So as you're tucking your mother in,

1044

00:51:10.700 --> 00:51:14.800

putting the Shaw quilt or whatever up around her,

1045

00:51:14.800 --> 00:51:15.960

you see a Bible.

1046

00:51:17.060 --> 00:51:22.020

And you see something sticking out of it, out of the corner,

1047

00:51:22.240 --> 00:51:26.280

like this old piece of looks like tattered napkin.

1048

00:51:26.880 --> 00:51:27.820

And you pull it out.

1049

00:51:28.480 --> 00:51:30.840

She's always collecting bits of crap.

1050

00:51:31.280 --> 00:51:32.940

Always collecting bits of crap.

1051

00:51:34.260 --> 00:51:38.640

It's an old napkin, kind of yellowed from the cuckoo's nest.

1052

00:51:39.480 --> 00:51:41.680

And there's something scribbled on the bottom of a number

1053

00:51:41.680 --> 00:51:44.980

and it looks like water soaked marker.

1054

00:51:45.940 --> 00:51:47.060

551, 551.

1055

00:51:47.740 --> 00:51:49.820

What is 551?

1056

00:51:50.600 --> 00:51:51.120

Weird.

1057

00:51:52.140 --> 00:51:53.940

I'm dropping things, but I'm writing it down.

1058

00:51:54.520 --> 00:51:57.680

You know your mother hasn't been to any bar, let alone that one.

1059

00:51:58.540 --> 00:52:01.340

Maybe in her senility, she's decided to get laid.

1060

00:52:02.160 --> 00:52:02.660

Oof.

1061

00:52:02.900 --> 00:52:06.980

As all this starts to sink in, the room seems to like inhale around you.

1062

00:52:07.940 --> 00:52:08.580

Roll for sanity.

1063

00:52:10.120 --> 00:52:12.100

37 out of 65.

1064

00:52:12.480 --> 00:52:12.900

Oh, nice.

1065

00:52:13.240 --> 00:52:13.900

Well done.

1066

00:52:15.680 --> 00:52:20.040

So that sensation, the room inhaling on you breaks up like fog.

1067

00:52:21.360 --> 00:52:26.480

That feeling of like chewing on aluminum foil still tingles in your fillings.

1068

00:52:27.520 --> 00:52:28.280

Take one point.

1069

00:52:29.540 --> 00:52:31.280

No place like fucking home.

1070

00:52:32.360 --> 00:52:35.140

You turn on your heels with a huff and barely,

1071

00:52:35.140 --> 00:52:37.760

barely controlled disgust.

1072

00:52:37.760 --> 00:52:40.820

Turn on your heels and get the hell out of this place.

1073

00:52:41.260 --> 00:52:42.620

You've got an appointment to get to.

1074

00:52:43.660 --> 00:52:43.700

Sadly.

1075

00:52:44.900 --> 00:52:45.340

Sadly.

1076

00:52:46.760 --> 00:52:47.100

Oz.

1077

00:52:54.080 --> 00:52:56.680

Oh, I had a really good time writing this one.

1078

00:52:57.280 --> 00:52:58.360

Let's do it.

1079

00:53:00.940 --> 00:53:06.940

And by the way, all of these have at least some fragment of my own personal past in them.

1080

00:53:06.960 --> 00:53:08.140

You got blinded by a tree?

1081

00:53:08.300 --> 00:53:09.320

I did, yes.

1082

00:53:11.220 --> 00:53:15.140

See, that's the fucking dangers of hugging trees.

1083

00:53:15.340 --> 00:53:17.120

And an electric fence, but we won't go there.

1084

00:53:18.100 --> 00:53:25.000

Your 89 Dodge Ram here, Oz's, growls into the crack lot of the 7-Eleven in town.

1085

00:53:26.080 --> 00:53:27.200

Engine straining.

1086

00:53:27.860 --> 00:53:30.300

That heat, white sky, no clouds.

1087

00:53:31.420 --> 00:53:33.700

Air so thick, feels like it's coating your lungs.

1088

00:53:34.140 --> 00:53:35.360

Fuck this town.

1089

00:53:35.880 --> 00:53:38.700

The heat doesn't just weigh on you, it like presses you flat.

1090

00:53:39.300 --> 00:53:40.680

Gravity's increased here.

1091

00:53:41.080 --> 00:53:44.120

You've felt it before in the desert, in Iraq.

1092

00:53:44.940 --> 00:53:47.880

The kind of heat where nothing moves unless it has to.

1093

00:53:48.480 --> 00:53:50.280

Danger waits behind every blank.

1094

00:53:51.060 --> 00:53:53.180

To cut your engine and that truck keeps ticking.

1095

00:53:53.480 --> 00:53:56.480

Tick, tick, tick, tick, tick, tick, ping, ping, ping.

1096

00:53:57.500 --> 00:54:01.060

And for a second, just a second, that lot shimmers like a mirage.

1097

00:54:02.000 --> 00:54:04.720

This corner of the state though, Ashwood, you've avoided it.

1098

00:54:04.960 --> 00:54:05.520

Consciously?

1099

00:54:05.900 --> 00:54:06.520

Maybe not.

1100

00:54:07.120 --> 00:54:07.920

But maybe did.

1101

00:54:07.920 --> 00:54:09.880

Yeah, totally.

1102

00:54:10.400 --> 00:54:12.500

Screw this place.

1103

00:54:12.960 --> 00:54:17.340

Driving across the state as a PI, gigs from Toledo to Cincinnati,

1104

00:54:17.440 --> 00:54:19.240

you've never stepped foot back here.

1105

00:54:19.280 --> 00:54:20.520

Not since you were a kid.

1106

00:54:21.000 --> 00:54:22.800

Not since that goddamn dome.

1107

00:54:24.100 --> 00:54:26.880

That geodesic dome, your parents called home.

1108

00:54:27.240 --> 00:54:30.600

The ones with no doors or walls, just patchouli smoke.

1109

00:54:31.020 --> 00:54:34.540

And the churn of, quote, guests who never left.

1110

00:54:35.040 --> 00:54:37.200

Your mom, a free-loving philosophy.

1111

00:54:37.420 --> 00:54:40.140

Your dad's like paranoia about government thought police.

1112

00:54:41.100 --> 00:54:43.580

Order never lived there in that dome with you guys, right?

1113

00:54:43.600 --> 00:54:45.420

That's why you stood up against bullies.

1114

00:54:45.540 --> 00:54:47.500

Why you and Becks found each other back then.

1115

00:54:47.620 --> 00:54:49.880

Two kids who wouldn't shut up and wouldn't lie down.

1116

00:54:52.040 --> 00:54:53.220

Then there was that fire.

1117

00:54:53.780 --> 00:54:57.580

That weekend you were gone, off at your aunt house, or so you remember.

1118

00:54:58.860 --> 00:55:00.160

Or what you've been told to remember.

1119

00:55:00.880 --> 00:55:02.920

By the time you came back, that dome was ashes.

1120

00:55:02.920 --> 00:55:06.240

Your parents chalked it up to enemies or karma or both.

1121

00:55:07.180 --> 00:55:08.740

But that story never sat right.

1122

00:55:09.120 --> 00:55:10.260

Never smelled really right.

1123

00:55:11.060 --> 00:55:12.380

But it rides with you even now.

1124

00:55:12.880 --> 00:55:13.380

Sticky.

1125

00:55:13.960 --> 00:55:14.460

Incomplete.

1126

00:55:15.200 --> 00:55:17.100

Something you think about when you're back here in this place.

1127

00:55:18.160 --> 00:55:21.820

As you step out of the truck, the lots crunching beneath your feet,

1128

00:55:22.240 --> 00:55:23.020

beneath your boots.

1129

00:55:24.060 --> 00:55:27.560

Sweats burning the edges of your scar down your arm and your neck.

1130

00:55:28.460 --> 00:55:29.720

Reminds you of another fire.

1131

00:55:30.120 --> 00:55:30.980

Another betrayal.

1132

00:55:31.100 --> 00:55:31.580

Order.

1133

00:55:31.940 --> 00:55:32.680

That fuel truck.

1134

00:55:32.920 --> 00:55:34.920

The blast that ended your army career.

1135

00:55:35.520 --> 00:55:39.000

Stripped half of your body raw and left you with a P.I. license

1136

00:55:39.000 --> 00:55:40.760

and an instinct for finding truth.

1137

00:55:41.520 --> 00:55:45.740

But the 7-Eleven, it squats in front of you like nothing ever changed.

1138

00:55:46.140 --> 00:55:47.420

It still smells the same.

1139

00:55:48.380 --> 00:55:49.700

Greasy roller dogs.

1140

00:55:50.360 --> 00:55:50.880

Sugar.

1141

00:55:51.920 --> 00:55:53.000

Cigarettes and dust.

1142

00:55:54.000 --> 00:55:59.960

You pull open the glass door and this freezer air just hits you and stings you.

1143

00:56:00.640 --> 00:56:01.780

It's too cold inside.

1144

00:56:01.940 --> 00:56:02.800

Too hot outside.

1145

00:56:02.920 --> 00:56:04.180

There's no balance.

1146

00:56:05.660 --> 00:56:06.580

Diametrically opposed.

1147

00:56:07.780 --> 00:56:13.340

There's a cutout, believe it or not, of Will Smith in the corner advertising Independence Day.

1148

00:56:13.680 --> 00:56:16.520

Behind a bin of VHS tapes that say 10 for a dollar.

1149

00:56:17.000 --> 00:56:21.580

There's stacks of Jolt Cola that don't look like anybody's touched them in decades.

1150

00:56:22.260 --> 00:56:24.960

Not a Pepsi in sight, but plenty of Shasta and Faygo.

1151

00:56:26.220 --> 00:56:28.960

But you hear it before you see it.

1152

00:56:31.810 --> 00:56:33.570

Is it the only thing that's still alive?

1153

00:56:35.620 --> 00:56:37.300

Wizard needs food badly.

1154

00:56:39.420 --> 00:56:43.800

It's the old gauntlet game sitting in the corner.

1155

00:56:45.020 --> 00:56:46.740

I've not seen such bravery.

1156

00:56:48.060 --> 00:56:48.840

The time capsule.

1157

00:56:49.380 --> 00:56:49.820

This place.

1158

00:56:50.460 --> 00:56:52.600

It's a museum or a mausoleum.

1159

00:56:53.140 --> 00:56:54.700

The next thing you notice is a woman.

1160

00:56:55.080 --> 00:56:55.700

Tina Jaroski.

1161

00:56:57.200 --> 00:56:58.460

Leaning on the counter.

1162

00:56:58.780 --> 00:56:59.680

All painted up.

1163

00:56:59.760 --> 00:57:00.500

Too much makeup.

1164

00:57:01.180 --> 00:57:02.040

Clings to her face.

1165

00:57:02.220 --> 00:57:03.680

Party girl swagger at 52.

1166

00:57:03.680 --> 00:57:05.300

She was wild back then.

1167

00:57:05.300 --> 00:57:06.100

She's still wild.

1168

00:57:06.380 --> 00:57:07.840

She doesn't recognize you, though, Oz.

1169

00:57:08.880 --> 00:57:11.600

Maybe she does, but she pretends like she doesn't.

1170

00:57:11.840 --> 00:57:13.240

Either way, she's going to flirt with you.

1171

00:57:13.620 --> 00:57:16.660

No hesitation, like it's muscle memory for her.

1172

00:57:17.000 --> 00:57:21.200

As you pass the coolers, walking around the edge, you can pick up something to drink.

1173

00:57:21.540 --> 00:57:23.540

Pick out your favorite flavor of Faygo.

1174

00:57:23.900 --> 00:57:26.760

You pass the coolers, cold seeping into your arm.

1175

00:57:27.880 --> 00:57:30.760

And your eyes cut back over to the arcade cabinet.

1176

00:57:31.660 --> 00:57:33.480

Somebody's standing there playing that game.

1177

00:57:34.500 --> 00:57:36.000

It's a skinny kid.

1178

00:57:36.740 --> 00:57:37.260

Tallish.

1179

00:57:37.560 --> 00:57:38.260

Red hair.

1180

00:57:39.180 --> 00:57:40.640

Shoulders hunched in concentration.

1181

00:57:42.360 --> 00:57:43.080

That's you, Oz.

1182

00:57:43.620 --> 00:57:44.600

It's you at 14.

1183

00:57:45.380 --> 00:57:48.940

I'm going to kind of shake my head and try and get that image out of my brain.

1184

00:57:49.320 --> 00:57:50.340

I want you to roll for sanity.

1185

00:57:50.700 --> 00:57:51.680

Of course you do.

1186

00:57:54.800 --> 00:57:55.840

Oh, 25.

1187

00:57:56.220 --> 00:57:56.840

Out of what?

1188

00:57:58.480 --> 00:57:59.480

Out of 65.

1189

00:57:59.660 --> 00:58:02.700

See, the out of is the important part because, you know,

1190

00:58:02.700 --> 00:58:05.600

don't try and woo me with your one number.

1191

00:58:07.360 --> 00:58:12.340

Well, you shake your head a bit, you rub your eyes, blink,

1192

00:58:13.700 --> 00:58:15.600

but your pulse is still skipping, man.

1193

00:58:15.980 --> 00:58:22.440

For a second, you swear that screen whispered your name.

1194

00:58:23.840 --> 00:58:24.960

But now it's back.

1195

00:58:26.520 --> 00:58:27.380

Sprite's flashing.

1196

00:58:29.040 --> 00:58:30.140

Wizard needs food badly.

1197

00:58:37.890 --> 00:58:38.850

It's just too much.

1198

00:58:38.850 --> 00:58:41.030

Being here is too much, right?

1199

00:58:41.250 --> 00:58:42.070

To hell with your drink.

1200

00:58:42.630 --> 00:58:43.390

You spin on your heels.

1201

00:58:43.550 --> 00:58:46.130

You rush out the door, kneeling, knocking on the smaller guy over.

1202

00:58:46.150 --> 00:58:47.470

He's just coming in the other way.

1203

00:58:49.540 --> 00:58:51.520

You got an appointment to get to, Oz.

1204

00:58:51.520 --> 00:58:53.020

You're going to get the hell out of town.

1205

00:58:54.340 --> 00:58:55.600

Welcome back to Ashwood.

1206

00:58:58.760 --> 00:59:01.780

This place, I should have stayed in Cleveland.

1207

00:59:02.860 --> 00:59:08.300

And last but not least, Lance, assuming that Lance can stay connected

1208

00:59:08.300 --> 00:59:10.200

for long enough for me to get through his session.

1209

00:59:10.840 --> 00:59:12.120

I think I'm good now.

1210

00:59:12.680 --> 00:59:13.540

You think you're good now?

1211

00:59:13.660 --> 00:59:13.960

I think so.

1212

00:59:13.960 --> 00:59:17.080

You can't blame it on having any kids at home chewing up bandwidth?

1213

00:59:17.540 --> 00:59:17.800

No.

1214

00:59:18.780 --> 00:59:19.620

No, no.

1215

00:59:20.000 --> 00:59:20.640

Were you streaming?

1216

00:59:21.360 --> 00:59:23.380

Are you uploading porn or downloading porn?

1217

00:59:23.620 --> 00:59:26.000

A little of both at the same time.

1218

00:59:26.200 --> 00:59:26.920

That's the problem.

1219

00:59:26.980 --> 00:59:27.920

There's only one pipe, buddy.

1220

00:59:28.100 --> 00:59:30.140

It's the live stream that's slowing it down.

1221

00:59:31.620 --> 00:59:32.500

Yeah, so.

1222

00:59:34.200 --> 00:59:35.900

The only fans need him.

1223

00:59:36.040 --> 00:59:36.360

Exactly.

1224

00:59:36.400 --> 00:59:37.260

That's why his camera's off.

1225

00:59:37.260 --> 00:59:39.080

He's got his other camera on right now.

1226

00:59:40.740 --> 00:59:41.620

Yeah, yeah.

1227

00:59:41.700 --> 00:59:42.960

I think I only have one camera.

1228

00:59:42.960 --> 00:59:43.540

That's funny.

1229

00:59:43.800 --> 00:59:44.240

Right.

1230

00:59:44.280 --> 00:59:45.760

Just go to [harrybears.com](http://harrybears.com).

1231

00:59:46.020 --> 00:59:48.300

No, don't go to [harrybears.com](http://harrybears.com).

1232

00:59:49.420 --> 00:59:50.760

Don't do that.

1233

00:59:50.940 --> 00:59:51.720

Oh, my.

1234

00:59:53.060 --> 00:59:55.260

No, we don't need that.

1235

00:59:55.440 --> 00:59:57.300

If you do that, you will have to make a sanity check.

1236

00:59:57.300 --> 00:59:58.120

Yeah, exactly.

1237

01:00:00.540 --> 01:00:03.220

Well, for sanity, 10d20.

1238

01:00:03.360 --> 01:00:05.940

First, you have to make a stupidity check if you do.

1239

01:00:06.220 --> 01:00:08.700

If you start typing that in, it's like, whoop, you failed.

1240

01:00:08.700 --> 01:00:09.860

Tastefulness check.

1241

01:00:10.300 --> 01:00:11.100

Tastefulness check.

1242

01:00:11.240 --> 01:00:12.340

Yeah, we don't do that around here.

1243

01:00:12.440 --> 01:00:13.060

You're in the wrong game.

1244

01:00:13.340 --> 01:00:14.360

Well, hairy bears are tasty.

1245

01:00:14.360 --> 01:00:14.900

That's not this game.

1246

01:00:15.000 --> 01:00:16.140

Hairy bears are tasty?

1247

01:00:16.520 --> 01:00:17.320

No, wrong.

1248

01:00:18.420 --> 01:00:23.040

OK, leave it up to we get to Greg and everything goes off the rails.

1249

01:00:24.660 --> 01:00:25.040

Of course.

1250

01:00:25.380 --> 01:00:26.980

So let's get to this one.

1251

01:00:28.000 --> 01:00:32.940

So Lance, your Mercedes S-Class glides quietly into the outskirts of Ashwood.

1252

01:00:33.280 --> 01:00:34.480

Nice, chilly cabin.

1253

01:00:35.080 --> 01:00:36.480

Engines purring smooth.

1254

01:00:36.480 --> 01:00:39.300

It's like a cocoon of cool air around you.

1255

01:00:39.420 --> 01:00:40.680

It's a furnace outside.

1256

01:00:41.300 --> 01:00:42.760

It's that bleached white sky.

1257

01:00:43.540 --> 01:00:45.800

Houses sagging underneath of it.

1258

01:00:46.180 --> 01:00:47.180

Rusty fences.

1259

01:00:48.500 --> 01:00:49.640

Husks of old factories.

1260

01:00:50.120 --> 01:00:51.920

The Union Carbide you ride past.

1261

01:00:52.940 --> 01:00:55.760

Carcass gaping where windows used to be.

1262

01:00:56.020 --> 01:00:58.640

Bell crankshaft leans, sagging behind fences.

1263

01:01:00.260 --> 01:01:02.440

Signs faded to almost like hieroglyphics.

1264

01:01:03.060 --> 01:01:06.520

This is the kingdom you were born into, Lancelot Mackayne.

1265

01:01:08.200 --> 01:01:08.760

Congratulations.

1266

01:01:08.860 --> 01:01:10.760

Your father named you after a knight.

1267

01:01:11.260 --> 01:01:13.180

After the glory of Arthurian legend.

1268

01:01:13.740 --> 01:01:17.840

He dreamed of chivalry, of scholarship, and of greatness.

1269

01:01:18.520 --> 01:01:20.920

And he raised you under the weight of that myth.

1270

01:01:21.900 --> 01:01:26.460

That when you chose Pratt Falls instead of prophecies, he never let you forget it.

1271

01:01:26.780 --> 01:01:28.080

A clown instead of a knight.

1272

01:01:28.660 --> 01:01:29.940

A joke instead of a son.

1273

01:01:29.940 --> 01:01:33.140

His voice still rides with you.

1274

01:01:34.000 --> 01:01:35.240

Every word correction.

1275

01:01:35.420 --> 01:01:37.780

Every phrase dripping in disappointment.

1276

01:01:38.760 --> 01:01:40.900

Pedantic, haughty, and cutting.

1277

01:01:42.300 --> 01:01:44.860

But even now, your Mercedes beneath you.

1278

01:01:45.780 --> 01:01:47.040

Chain of escape rooms.

1279

01:01:49.280 --> 01:01:49.740

Sorry.

1280

01:01:49.980 --> 01:01:50.920

Chain of escape rooms.

1281

01:01:51.040 --> 01:01:51.640

Very serious.

1282

01:01:52.040 --> 01:01:53.740

Very serious, serious business here.

1283

01:01:54.240 --> 01:01:56.460

Chain of escape rooms right across the country.

1284

01:01:56.780 --> 01:01:57.640

Money in the bank.

1285

01:01:57.960 --> 01:01:59.120

You can still hear them.

1286

01:01:59.120 --> 01:02:00.840

You can still hear them.

1287

01:02:01.140 --> 01:02:02.320

A franchise, Lancelot.

1288

01:02:03.080 --> 01:02:04.040

Carnival games.

1289

01:02:04.700 --> 01:02:07.420

While you bear the name of the burden of history.

1290

01:02:08.420 --> 01:02:10.180

And even now, you still feel it.

1291

01:02:10.360 --> 01:02:11.760

He never asked if you were happy.

1292

01:02:11.880 --> 01:02:13.660

He never asked if you were proud.

1293

01:02:14.440 --> 01:02:16.800

And Ashwood, his voice is louder than your own.

1294

01:02:17.340 --> 01:02:17.820

Still.

1295

01:02:18.580 --> 01:02:21.080

But you slide into this familiar suburbia of 1992.

1296

01:02:21.540 --> 01:02:22.280

Frozen and amber.

1297

01:02:22.820 --> 01:02:25.000

And you pull into the 7-Eleven parking lot.

1298

01:02:25.620 --> 01:02:26.480

Whispering to a stop.

1299

01:02:26.480 --> 01:02:31.480

Car is way too polished and way too posh for this parking lot, let me tell you.

1300

01:02:31.680 --> 01:02:35.120

Get out of the car, you notice there's like a pack of local tufts.

1301

01:02:35.120 --> 01:02:38.240

You know, teens, early 20s, loitering by the door.

1302

01:02:39.680 --> 01:02:40.080

Skinny.

1303

01:02:40.240 --> 01:02:40.920

A little too skinny.

1304

01:02:41.340 --> 01:02:42.920

A little too restless of the eyes.

1305

01:02:43.460 --> 01:02:45.900

In this heat, one of them's wearing a goddamn jean jacket.

1306

01:02:46.180 --> 01:02:47.320

Sometimes you just gotta.

1307

01:02:47.660 --> 01:02:48.540

It's all about the cool.

1308

01:02:48.780 --> 01:02:50.080

Can you still find jean jackets?

1309

01:02:50.300 --> 01:02:50.940

You can.

1310

01:02:51.020 --> 01:02:52.060

I was going to wear mine today.

1311

01:02:52.120 --> 01:02:53.240

Maybe I'll wear mine next time.

1312

01:02:53.600 --> 01:02:54.960

It'll be Fat Man in a little coat.

1313

01:02:55.040 --> 01:02:55.940

Boot barn has tons.

1314

01:02:55.940 --> 01:03:00.220

Nowadays, all the kids are in their stupid hoodies in the middle of summer in Texas.

1315

01:03:01.120 --> 01:03:04.520

Well, these tufts, their eyes are darting around like trapped animals.

1316

01:03:05.080 --> 01:03:09.060

One scratches out a rash that's climbing up out of his t-shirt, up his neck.

1317

01:03:09.300 --> 01:03:12.120

It's red and thin, stringy rash.

1318

01:03:12.820 --> 01:03:16.060

They follow you, their eyes, suspicion, hunger.

1319

01:03:17.000 --> 01:03:20.560

Looking back at your car, looking at you, looking back at your car, looking at you.

1320

01:03:21.320 --> 01:03:23.940

But you go into the 7-Eleven, open that door.

1321

01:03:24.760 --> 01:03:26.880

Inside the air is, again, too cold.

1322

01:03:27.200 --> 01:03:29.080

Fluorescence are buzzing and flickering overhead.

1323

01:03:29.180 --> 01:03:34.520

That fryer grease and old cigarette smell and that god-awful cotton candy air freshener

1324

01:03:34.520 --> 01:03:38.220

that they squirt out of this place all sort of mingles together with the dust.

1325

01:03:38.460 --> 01:03:39.720

Like it's been here since high school.

1326

01:03:39.920 --> 01:03:40.760

Probably has.

1327

01:03:41.240 --> 01:03:42.440

Nothing ever changes, really.

1328

01:03:43.040 --> 01:03:46.840

And then somebody shouts from behind you, no fucking way.

1329

01:03:47.100 --> 01:03:48.240

Lance McLean.

1330

01:03:49.060 --> 01:03:50.980

You turn around, you see Tina Dorosky.

1331

01:03:51.760 --> 01:03:52.840

She's leaning on the counter.

1332

01:03:52.840 --> 01:03:55.540

And for a moment, just the gears slide off.

1333

01:03:55.660 --> 01:03:58.260

She still's painted up pretty good.

1334

01:03:58.700 --> 01:04:00.480

Still lines her eyes a little too heavy, Lance.

1335

01:04:00.760 --> 01:04:03.680

But she's still wearing a blouse that's one size too small.

1336

01:04:04.480 --> 01:04:06.280

And still acting like the party never ended.

1337

01:04:07.100 --> 01:04:09.140

At 52, though, she's carrying the miles.

1338

01:04:09.560 --> 01:04:11.200

But there's something about the way she laughs,

1339

01:04:11.340 --> 01:04:13.940

that throaty, careless laugh that pulls at you.

1340

01:04:14.080 --> 01:04:15.220

You remember her back then.

1341

01:04:15.940 --> 01:04:19.460

Wild and easy kind of girl who never said no to a good time.

1342

01:04:19.980 --> 01:04:21.180

You know the kind I'm talking about, Lance?

1343

01:04:21.240 --> 01:04:21.960

Oh, I know you do.

1344

01:04:21.960 --> 01:04:23.960

She hasn't changed much, not really.

1345

01:04:24.180 --> 01:04:27.760

A little older, a little softer, but still throwing off those sparks.

1346

01:04:28.580 --> 01:04:30.840

Your marriage has been running on fumes for years, pal.

1347

01:04:31.260 --> 01:04:34.400

Your wife colder than the AC blowing over your head right now.

1348

01:04:34.980 --> 01:04:37.220

You've got money, more than you'd ever thought you'd have.

1349

01:04:37.700 --> 01:04:39.400

But it doesn't buy back a warmth, right?

1350

01:04:39.420 --> 01:04:41.620

It doesn't stop the gnaw on your gut.

1351

01:04:41.880 --> 01:04:43.940

And Tina, Tina's looking at you.

1352

01:04:44.100 --> 01:04:45.420

It's like you're still worth looking at.

1353

01:04:45.820 --> 01:04:47.740

For a second, you let yourself imagine it.

1354

01:04:47.940 --> 01:04:50.960

Just staying too long and letting her laugh

1355

01:04:50.960 --> 01:04:53.400

and pull you into an old orbit.

1356

01:04:53.960 --> 01:04:57.040

Burning through cash like a time neither of you mattered.

1357

01:04:57.180 --> 01:04:57.980

It's pathetic.

1358

01:04:58.500 --> 01:05:01.480

It's dangerous, this idea in your mind.

1359

01:05:02.060 --> 01:05:04.740

It's exactly the kind of trouble you've always been drawn to.

1360

01:05:05.140 --> 01:05:06.640

She says, as you come back to the world,

1361

01:05:06.720 --> 01:05:09.160

I was just telling my friends about homecoming.

1362

01:05:09.560 --> 01:05:12.420

She grins at you, fumbling for her phone,

1363

01:05:12.480 --> 01:05:16.400

pulls her phone up and holds out her phone as she's swiping through

1364

01:05:16.400 --> 01:05:20.620

to find photos with this really mischievous grin on her face.

1365

01:05:20.960 --> 01:05:23.720

Let me pull up that photo for you.

1366

01:05:23.860 --> 01:05:24.780

Roll for syphilis.

1367

01:05:24.960 --> 01:05:25.700

Yes, Angela.

1368

01:05:26.320 --> 01:05:28.140

You can't, Angela, you can't.

1369

01:05:28.300 --> 01:05:30.220

These things, you have to interject them.

1370

01:05:30.220 --> 01:05:32.200

That's what I'm expecting as snark.

1371

01:05:32.360 --> 01:05:33.300

Yes, roll for syphilis.

1372

01:05:34.640 --> 01:05:36.020

Syphilis if you're lucky.

1373

01:05:38.380 --> 01:05:39.520

Syphilis if you're lucky.

1374

01:05:40.440 --> 01:05:43.040

I'm trying not to interrupt other people's vignettes.

1375

01:05:43.140 --> 01:05:43.980

Oh, no, you should.

1376

01:05:44.760 --> 01:05:45.640

Oh, please.

1377

01:05:46.460 --> 01:05:48.760

Where did the politeness come from?

1378

01:05:51.400 --> 01:05:53.640

We're on good behavior for the first session.

1379

01:05:53.880 --> 01:05:54.800

Yeah, it's the first session.

1380

01:05:54.960 --> 01:05:55.600

We're trying to be nice.

1381

01:05:55.800 --> 01:05:56.520

Feeling it out, yeah.

1382

01:05:57.160 --> 01:05:58.300

I don't know what to do with that.

1383

01:05:58.860 --> 01:05:59.900

That's why we're doing it.

1384

01:05:59.920 --> 01:06:01.120

That's why you're doing it?

1385

01:06:03.240 --> 01:06:07.460

Let me pull up the photo, Lance, that Tina's looking at.

1386

01:06:07.900 --> 01:06:09.540

This isn't a naked photo, is it?

1387

01:06:09.760 --> 01:06:10.500

Because I might need to.

1388

01:06:10.560 --> 01:06:12.360

That's on harrybears.com.

1389

01:06:12.540 --> 01:06:14.760

No, that's not what we're doing here.

1390

01:06:15.660 --> 01:06:17.120

That's not what we're doing here.

1391

01:06:17.460 --> 01:06:20.500

And this has to be a scanned photo uploaded to her phone

1392

01:06:20.500 --> 01:06:22.240

because there's no way this was taken on a phone.

1393

01:06:22.760 --> 01:06:23.220

That's correct.

1394

01:06:23.260 --> 01:06:25.780

It is a scanned photo uploaded to her phone.

1395

01:06:26.680 --> 01:06:29.500

A picture of a Polaroid, that sort of thing?

1396

01:06:29.960 --> 01:06:31.460

Effort was made here, yes.

1397

01:06:31.860 --> 01:06:32.860

Well, I tried.

1398

01:06:34.020 --> 01:06:35.280

You did, but this is better.

1399

01:06:36.200 --> 01:06:36.880

Oh, my.

1400

01:06:39.040 --> 01:06:39.520

Wow.

1401

01:06:39.520 --> 01:06:40.980

Oh, my hair.

1402

01:06:42.620 --> 01:06:43.300

Oh, boy.

1403

01:06:48.240 --> 01:06:49.560

So much hair.

1404

01:06:49.560 --> 01:06:50.520

Your hair is the same.

1405

01:06:50.720 --> 01:06:51.460

Oh, look at that.

1406

01:06:51.800 --> 01:06:53.040

So much hair.

1407

01:06:53.560 --> 01:06:56.840

Many aquanuts were killed in the making of this photo.

1408

01:06:56.840 --> 01:06:57.700

It's a raging mullet.

1409

01:06:57.860 --> 01:07:00.380

I will have you know that for that mullet,

1410

01:07:00.760 --> 01:07:05.580

I loaded my high school senior picture as a reference.

1411

01:07:06.320 --> 01:07:09.340

So just so you know, I've taken this very seriously.

1412

01:07:09.520 --> 01:07:10.360

Oh, my.

1413

01:07:12.060 --> 01:07:16.080

This will go into the archive for safekeeping.

1414

01:07:17.520 --> 01:07:21.060

It needs to go into the archive with your high school senior picture.

1415

01:07:21.820 --> 01:07:24.240

Yeah, we need the reference picture.

1416

01:07:24.660 --> 01:07:25.280

Oh, just wait.

1417

01:07:25.820 --> 01:07:28.040

Don't try to woo us with your one picture, James.

1418

01:07:28.460 --> 01:07:30.420

Okay, well, I have two.

1419

01:07:30.860 --> 01:07:32.420

There were two used as reference.

1420

01:07:33.240 --> 01:07:35.960

But you will also have to contribute things

1421

01:07:35.960 --> 01:07:37.860

because that's going to be part of the game going forward.

1422

01:07:38.360 --> 01:07:43.560

Well, I French braided my prom date's mullet for his senior prom.

1423

01:07:43.860 --> 01:07:44.700

Oh, nice.

1424

01:07:46.460 --> 01:07:46.940

Wow.

1425

01:07:47.300 --> 01:07:48.360

Nice, nice.

1426

01:07:48.440 --> 01:07:50.080

So that's the picture you see, Lance.

1427

01:07:50.420 --> 01:07:53.480

As you can imagine, anybody who's actually seeing that picture

1428

01:07:53.480 --> 01:07:54.780

and anybody who's listening to this,

1429

01:07:54.800 --> 01:07:56.680

once we do get our Patreon set up,

1430

01:07:56.680 --> 01:07:58.940

you can have access to all these photos and whatnot.

1431

01:07:59.380 --> 01:08:01.360

You need to roll a sanity check now, pal.

1432

01:08:04.760 --> 01:08:05.320

All righty.

1433

01:08:05.380 --> 01:08:07.080

Can the players also roll?

1434

01:08:07.640 --> 01:08:09.430

You never went to homecoming with Tina.

1435

01:08:10.660 --> 01:08:11.960

You are positive.

1436

01:08:12.560 --> 01:08:13.200

What the hell?

1437

01:08:13.380 --> 01:08:14.900

But you did have that much hair.

1438

01:08:15.480 --> 01:08:16.840

You did have this much hair.

1439

01:08:17.120 --> 01:08:19.060

Rolled a 52 on a 60.

1440

01:08:19.640 --> 01:08:21.720

Oh, just you got by.

1441

01:08:22.020 --> 01:08:23.020

You got by, pal.

1442

01:08:23.479 --> 01:08:25.399

I think I'm still distracted by the tight shirt.

1443

01:08:26.020 --> 01:08:28.000

Yeah, your stomach kind of drops, though.

1444

01:08:28.020 --> 01:08:29.720

That's not your memory, but there it is.

1445

01:08:29.779 --> 01:08:31.200

Something weird is happening here.

1446

01:08:31.260 --> 01:08:32.460

I don't get it.

1447

01:08:32.700 --> 01:08:34.120

Take one point of sanity damage.

1448

01:08:35.220 --> 01:08:36.960

But she can tell something's off with you.

1449

01:08:37.380 --> 01:08:38.979

She's like, are you all right, baby?

1450

01:08:39.340 --> 01:08:40.540

You look like you've seen a ghost.

1451

01:08:41.680 --> 01:08:42.520

I tell you what, though.

1452

01:08:42.520 --> 01:08:44.100

You swing by the Cuckoo's Nest tonight.

1453

01:08:44.479 --> 01:08:46.300

They've plastered old pictures all over the walls.

1454

01:08:46.319 --> 01:08:47.160

I'll show you around.

1455

01:08:49.600 --> 01:08:50.880

You got to get out of Dodge.

1456

01:08:50.920 --> 01:08:52.220

You've got an appointment to get to.

1457

01:08:53.180 --> 01:08:55.140

Yeah, I'll see if my, you know,

1458

01:08:55.140 --> 01:08:56.979

I've got a pretty busy schedule here, Tina.

1459

01:08:57.060 --> 01:08:57.859

Good to see you, though.

1460

01:08:58.439 --> 01:09:00.620

I'll see if I have a chance to stop by later.

1461

01:09:03.720 --> 01:09:04.439

Cuckoo's Nest.

1462

01:09:04.600 --> 01:09:06.760

An actual place in my hometown.

1463

01:09:07.080 --> 01:09:08.580

I have been there.

1464

01:09:08.859 --> 01:09:09.979

So welcome all.

1465

01:09:10.220 --> 01:09:12.040

Now that you've all been introduced to one another.

1466

01:09:12.840 --> 01:09:14.120

You're all in Ashwood.

1467

01:09:14.700 --> 01:09:16.479

Can they be faithful listeners yet?

1468

01:09:16.560 --> 01:09:18.580

If they've only listened to one episode, probably not.

1469

01:09:18.660 --> 01:09:20.060

But they're going to be faithful listeners now.

1470

01:09:20.080 --> 01:09:22.600

They're all introduced to who you are and why you're back here.

1471

01:09:23.160 --> 01:09:28.859

I think a well-deserving session zero to get everyone started.

1472

01:09:29.279 --> 01:09:31.359

But you know, you've got a will of reading to get to

1473

01:09:31.359 --> 01:09:34.180

because we want to get to the getting on this mystery

1474

01:09:34.180 --> 01:09:35.640

and what's actually going on here.

1475

01:09:35.640 --> 01:09:38.220

Are these memories you actually had?

1476

01:09:39.220 --> 01:09:40.399

Are these things that are created?

1477

01:09:40.580 --> 01:09:41.640

Is somebody fucking with you?

1478

01:09:42.220 --> 01:09:44.000

What is exactly going on here?

1479

01:09:50.140 --> 01:09:52.500

Thanks for listening to Roll for Sanity.

1480

01:09:53.319 --> 01:09:54.760

If you'd like to support the show

1481

01:09:54.760 --> 01:09:58.040

and explore deeper into the world of Echoes Under Ashwood,

1482

01:09:58.700 --> 01:10:00.240

you can find bonus episodes,

1483

01:10:00.840 --> 01:10:01.540

extended scenes,

1484

01:10:01.740 --> 01:10:04.400

and in-world artifacts in our Patreon alt,

1485

01:10:04.840 --> 01:10:06.140

The Latchkey Lair.

1486

01:10:07.180 --> 01:10:08.600

There's also a listener discord,

1487

01:10:08.600 --> 01:10:11.880

where people can share theories, details they've noticed,

1488

01:10:12.420 --> 01:10:14.640

and help us keep the lore of Ashwood consistent

1489

01:10:14.640 --> 01:10:15.880

as the story unfolds.

1490

01:10:17.300 --> 01:10:21.240

Ratings, reviews, shares make a real difference for us

1491

01:10:21.240 --> 01:10:23.280

in helping new listeners find the show.

1492

01:10:24.460 --> 01:10:26.440

We appreciate you spending your time with us.

1493

01:10:26.640 --> 01:10:27.280

We'll be back soon.