

STONE PACT

Written by

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EXT. FOSTER'S FARM FIELD - AFTERNOON

Sun shines on rolling hills, level crop fields and grass land separated with tree-lined wind breaks on a late 1980s farm.

ZAPP, 17, plucks a grasshopper from his fine fly-away hair and sweeps hair back from his handsome face. He shifts his lanky frame on a rusted-out green lawn mower which sputters and POPS a puff of smoke every few revolutions.

Zapp cuts grass around three-foot high corn with a weathered scarecrow atilt in the center.

UPPY DOG, a small doe-eyed, floppy-ear dog paws the ground in the fresh mown grass.

Beyond Uppy Dog, a stream flows under a bridge which joins another field.

Zapp adjusts the slingshot in his chest overalls pocket and steers toward Uppy. The dog raises his head and reveals a round stone in his teeth.

Zapp leaves the mower's path, slows to a stop, idles the engine, reaches down to Uppy Dog and takes the stone.

Zapp examines the stone, nods at Uppy and smiles.

ZAPP

Good boy, Uppy Dog!

Zapp returns the mower to its path, pockets the stone in another chest pocket while the mower cruises toward the bridge.

Zapp nears the end-post of the bridge rail and his smile turns to fear.

VISION - COLLAPSED BRIDGE

The remnants of a collapsed wooden bridge expose the rock wall of a creek bank on the opposite side.

FADE BACK IN:

EXT. FOSTER'S FARM CREEK - AFTERNOON

Zapp steers toward the bridge deck, switches toward the creek bank and back toward the bridge.

Zapp turns away from the bridge again, motors down the embankment and into the stream.

ZAPP
 (shouts)
 Ohhhh, NOOOOO!

Water muffles the engine. It lets loose one last PUFF of smoke and disappears into the water with Zapp.

Zapp floats to the surface, COUGHS and SPLASHES his way toward the bank, slips and goes under.

Zapp reappears near the bank with pieces of moss stuck to him. He approaches the bridge trestle, reaches up and grasps a support to steady himself. He COUGHS and GASPS to catch his breath.

Red-faced, Zapp squints up the creek bank. Uppy Dog looks down from the bank and WHIMPERS.

Zapp frowns, uses a tree root to climb and sits on a long flat rock midway up the bank. Uppy Dog lounges atop the bank.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
 (to Uppy Dog)
 I know what you're thinking, Uppy.

Uppy Dog cocks his head and WHIMPERS. Zapp removes a boot and POURS water out.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
 A chance to prove what I can do ---

Uppy Dog jumps down from his roost and SNIFFS the puddle Zapp created.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
 Unk won't want me now.

Zapp removes the other boot and empties it near the same spot and stares at it.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
 I'm afraid he'll ---

Dry ground absorbs the water and uncovers a round smooth stone. Uppy Dog picks it up in his teeth and looks up to Zapp.

Zapp takes the pastel orange stone shaped like a peach.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
 A peach stone.
 (sighs)
 In my case ...a pit.

Zapp gazes out across the field.

FADE TO:

MONTAGE OF AUNT THORN

EXT. AUNT THORN'S HOUSE - DUSK

--- A wrought iron fence surrounds a stately stone house. A mailbox with painted-on roses and thorns reads "THYRA FOSTER".

INT. AUNT THORN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

--- AUNT THYRA aka THORN, 60s, small-framed with perfect purple-silver coif and a stylish dress sits with her feet up while Zapp snips her toenails.

EXT. AUNT THORN'S CHICKEN COOP - DAY

--- Zapp avoids SNAPS from a rooster who struts among the hens. Zapp scoops coop poop off the thresh-hold.

INT. AUNT THORN'S CHICKEN COOP - DAY

--- Wicker basket in hand, Zapp gathers eggs from individual nests in the coop and comes across one with broken eggs encircled by a large coiled black snake. Wide-eyed he snatches his hand back.

INT. AUNT THORN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

--- Aunt Thorn rests her head in Zapp's lap on the couch. Zapp tweezes her chin hair. EBONY, a huge sleek cat preens himself on the back of the couch.

CONTINUOUS

--- Zapp enters with a tray of cookies wary of SIX OLD LADIES seated for a quilting bee. He slowly rounds the quilt frame. Aunt Thorn dons perfect hair, clothes and make-up.

A few walkers stand along a wall near the entry. The ladies don shawls draped over their shoulders, purple highlights in their silver hair, their soft speech inaudible.

LADY ONE pulls up her dress enough to adjust a garter.

LADY TWO eyes the cookie tray, reaches for her purse beside her foot, retrieves her dentures and installs them.

Lady One eyes Zapp and reaches for a cookie. Zapp continues past Lady One and she SLAPS him on the rear. Zapp jumps and turns red.

Lady Two takes a cookie and pinches Zapp's cheek with two bony fingers. Zapp's eyes open wide.

LADY ONE
(muffled)
Aww, don't be shy, honey.

Lady Two releases Zapp's cheek and leaves bright red marks.

LADY TWO
(muffled)
That's why these meetings are called 'teas'!

END MONTAGE

EXT. FOSTER'S FARM CREEK - DUSK

Zapp watches the sun disappear among gathering clouds. He looks down at the "peach" stone and rubs off a smudge.

ZAPP
Nothing warm and fuzzy here.

Uppy Dog cowers and WHIMPERS at the sight of Zapp's sad face.

Zapp hears CLAPPING. He looks up to see ANDY, early 20s, barefoot in jeans with ragged bell bottoms and a tail of hair down his back. A tank top exposes toned arms on the plain-faced man.

With a weed in his mouth, Andy saunters onto the bridge from the other field. Zapp releases a SIGH of relief.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
Huh ...Andy! You scared me.

Andy motions toward the water and removes the weed from his mouth.

ANDY
(nods)
Amusing ...circus quality.

Andy CHUCKLES. Zapp pouts, removes a soaked sock and wrings it out.

ANDY (CONT'D)
I can see Unk. Every color of teed
off.

Zapp spreads the sock on the rock slab.

ZAPP
Thanks ...friend. Maybe I SHOULD
run off to the circus.

ANDY
Might make it big ...

Andy spreads his arms and bows.

ANDY (CONT'D)
...Zapp and his Amazing Barkless
Dog.

Zapp removes the other sock and wrings it out.

ZAPP
(defensive)
He can't help it.

Andy looks out over the corn field. Zapp spreads out the
other sock.

ANDY
You won't ever farm this place.
You can't even manage a little
mower.

Zapp rises and moves to the top of the creek bank.

ZAPP
I can fix it. Just remove and
replace. Unk won't even know.

Andy shakes his head NO and leans with folded arms on the
bridge.

ANDY
So naive. Why don't you go to
school or something ...rather than
just wait ...doing little kid
chores?

Zapp spots a raccoon between himself and the leaning
scarecrow. He removes the sling shot from his chest pocket.

ZAPP
This is real work. Besides, I'll
be real busy once I'm eighteen.
(MORE)

ZAPP (CONT'D)
(stumbles)
My in-hur-tance, you know.

ANDY
In the mean time, just rest on your laurels?

Zapp removes two stones from his pocket and returns the one shaped like a peach.

ZAPP
Look, I don't have to prove myself to anyone ...
(relents)
...except Unk.

Zapp loads the shooter and aims at the raccoon.

ANDY
The rate you're going, Unk may croak before you get a chance to.

Zapp FLINGS the stone at the raccoon, misses and the stone bounces off the base of the scarecrow.

ANDY (CONT'D)
What were you aiming at?

Uppy Dog bounds across the field toward the scarecrow.

ZAPP
Uh ...the scarecrow.

Andy looks up at the darkening sky.

ANDY
Yea ...right. Might as well aim at nothing.

Andy stands up straight.

ANDY (CONT'D)
You hit it every time.

Zapp stares at Andy who motions toward the water.

ANDY (CONT'D)
Get a chain. I'll be back with our tractor.

Thunder rolls in the nearing gray-green clouds.

FADE TO GREEN:

INT. FOSTER'S FARM HOUSE - MORNING

IN THE KITCHEN

Two dollar bills hang from a magnet on the refrigerator. Zapp removes them and slips the money into his hip pocket.

ZAPP
Manna from heaven!

Uppy Dog watches and wags his tail next to his doggie dish marked "_UPPY" with a gummy outline where the first "P" came off.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
Kolaches!

Uppy Dog's ears stand up. Zapp slips his slingshot into his chest pocket, crosses the

LIVING ROOM

To the rear screen door and peers over the wet driveway toward the barn. Uppy looks out from below.

EXT. FOSTER'S BARNYARD - MORNING

From the rear porch of the one-story clapboard house the driveway curves around to the right to a double garage. A vacant chicken coop in need of paint with chicken wire windows stands to the left.

Beyond the coop stands a barn. A lean-to with an overhead door attaches to the barn on the side toward the coop.

Pastel painted wooden bee hives sporadically dot the yard around the coop and barn area.

An olive green step-side truck with oxidized paint sits in the open garage. A silo stands farther past the garage.

INT. FOSTER'S FARM HOUSE - MORNING

LIVING ROOM - REAR DOOR

Zapp scans the cornfield. The top half of the scarecrow dangles from the post. Zapp glances down at Uppy Dog.

ZAPP
Must be really soaked. Guess we shoulda replaced the post, Uppy.

EXT. FOSTER'S BARN LEAN-TO - MORNING

From around the barn appears UNCLE VICK FOSTER, "UNK" 60s, with a thin beard which partly hides the tall, handsome man's chiseled face shaded by a brimmed hat with a sweat ring.

Unk nears a table, a pair of sawhorses topped with a sheet of plywood partly shaded. He sets down a stack of wood pieces and bees-wax sheets to assemble hive frames.

INT. FOSTER'S FARM HOUSE - MORNING

Zapp SIGHS.

ZAPP

Uhh ...the mower. Hope he don't see it yet.

Zapp crosses the living room. He slows at the sight of a huge dusty Bible on the coffee table.

MOTHER (V.O.)

(sweet, soft)

Be sure your sin will find you out.

Zapp SIGHS and quickens his pace to the kitchen with Uppy Dog behind.

EXT. MAIN STREET - MORNING

An aerial sweep over a lake, to the highway through the hills, crop fields and into town reveals a sign which reads "MATFIELD - CITY LIMIT - POP. 1128".

On the corner of school property, a large kiosk which resembles an open crayon box reads "MATFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL".

Two-story stone buildings with large plate glass windows erected in the late 1800s to early 1900s line the street.

"JOHN BROWN'S BODY SHOP" and other vacant businesses nestle between open businesses along the street.

Patrons cars line both sides of the street at "HENRY'S HARDWARE", "MATFIELD BARBER/BEAUTY SHOP", "TIGHTWAD STATE BANK", "MATFIELD POST OFFICE", "GREEN COUNTY GROCERY" and "NOOLA'S SALOON".

A corner building houses a bakery adjacent to a vacant "PHARMACY". Hanging above the bakery, a shiny new sign reads "PAW'S CAFE" printed on the image of a dog's paw.

Painted-on paw prints span the length of the sidewalk in front of the two buildings.

EXT. PHARMACY - MORNING

Zapp nears the front window with a dark interior. He sees the "HELP WANTED" sign with "CONTRACTORS" written by hand. Zapp's countenance brightens.

ZAPP

Now there's real work, Uppy.

Uppy Dog SNIFFS at the painted paws on the sidewalk.

MAGICIA, 70s, a bone-thin, pale yellow, witchy woman with a black turban appears in the reflection of the window.

Zapp GASPS and spins around. Magicia speaks with a scratchy voice and whistles on the "S"s and "Z"s. She bats her eyes.

MAGICIA

Excuse me, dearie.

(scans around)

Is Vick ...uh, your uncle. Is he in the vicinity?

ZAPP

Uh ...no, he's all tied up.

MAGICIA

(shivers)

Oooooo. How thrilling.

(shrugs)

I mean ...it's good to be busy.

ZAPP

(confused)

Yes, ma'am. Excuse me.

Zapp sidles next door and disappears inside.

INT. PAW'S CAFE - MORNING

Zapp passes a row of booths against the wall. Aunt Thorn sits with a few Patrons at the center round table busy gabbing.

Zapp gives a little nod to Aunt Thorn who returns a little smile and a nod.

Zapp approaches the counter with the kitchen service window beyond.

ZAPP

Whose cake?

Dimpled smiling YANK, early 40s, with long hair wound into a roll on top presses a chocolate coin into the frosting on the bottom tier of a three-tiered grass-green frosted cake trimmed in white icing.

Coins ascend ramps from tier to tier around the cake.

YANK

A boy from Bazaar High.

Zapp pulls money from his pocket and lays it on the counter.

ZAPP

Uh, yeah. No bakery over there.

Yank presses a male figurine dressed in a graduation robe and hat onto the second tier between coins.

ZAPP (CONT'D)

(confused)

Why there, Yank? Mine was on top.

Magicia enters and pours coffee at the coffee station.

YANK

He's not done ...going on to medical school. His mom wants it like this.

Zapp frowns and seats himself onto a stool.

ZAPP

I barely scratched through high school.

Uppy presses his nose against the glass to peer in.

At a booth, Magicia bobs her crossed leg in an enticing manner.

YANK

There are plenty of trades ...good trades that don't require college.

HONEY, 17, a pixie of a girl with braided pig-tails peeks over the sill of the kitchen service window. Kolaches and other baked goods fill the racks behind her.

HONEY

Morning, Zapp. The usual?

ZAPP

Not today, Honey. Half a dozen
peach ...with icing.

Honey flops a towel over her shoulder and turns toward the racks. Yank presses a few coins on the top tier from the edge to the center.

YANK

Folks have spent fortunes on
college for their kids ...only to
have them drop out.

ZAPP

Maybe it would mean more if they
had to pay their own way.

Yank stops and looks Zapp in the eye.

YANK

You've got more common sense than a
lot of adults.

Zapp's face brightens and gestures toward the clear plastic sheet over the interior archway to the pharmacy.

ZAPP

Hey, uh ...I can work next door.

Yank finishes the top with the final center coin.

YANK

Maybe later. Right now, I need
licensed craftsmen.

ZAPP

(nods, frowns)
Oh.

Honey sets the box on the counter.

HONEY

(to Zapp)
Peach? And icing? Celebrating
something?

ZAPP

Nah. Well, yeah ...my last meal.

Zapp stands up and slides the box toward him.

YANK

What?

ZAPP
Never mind. Thanks, Honey.

Zapp perks up, smiles and NODS at Honey.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
(louder)
LIQUID GOLD!

Aunt Thorn and few TOWN CITIZENS notice Zapp and trade glances. Zapp nods to Yank and Honey. He exits with his kolaches.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
Thick as tar.

CITIZEN ONE, a skinny, scruffy bearded man stares.

CITIZEN ONE
(to Aunt Thorn)
You hear that, Thorny? Liquid gold!

CITIZEN TWO, a heavy farmer clad in overalls with the side buttons open turns to Citizen One.

CITIZEN TWO
Us rough-necks know what that means.

CITIZEN ONE
Oil. Black gold.

AUNT THORN
(whispers)
Vick's been hiding it from me!

I/E. FOSTER'S BARN LEAN-TO - MORNING

Unk opens the overhead door, enters to a side wall of pegboard and retrieves a drill and extension cord.

At the door, Unk forms a puzzled expression, looks back to the concrete floor and eyes the puddles under the mower. Sporadic pieces of grass and patches of mud stick to it.

Unk GASPS, removes his hat and runs his fingers through his hair.

UNK
(puzzled)
What the ---

EXT. FAB FORM PLANT FLOOR - MORNING

On the outskirts of Matfield on Main Street, the two-story administration building consists of a glass exterior with a huge kiosk - "FAB FORM, INC".

Behind the administration building, a high roof protects the expansive plant floor from the elements with open sides. The employees break-room sets to the side with several trucks and a bright red Corvette in the parking lot beyond.

The plant casts holo-core panels for building construction.

Employees wear uniform shirts with name patches.

Perfectly groomed BART, 20s, clad in tight jeans emerges from the "BREAK ROOM" and looks out across the extruder area.

Bart catches his reflection in the window and flexes his arms. He looks closer, frowns and perfects a few stray hairs. In the reflection, appears sloppy-dressed REDD, 20s, pale, red-haired and overweight.

Redd unevenly tucks in his shirt tail.

REDD
Morning, Bart.

BART
(grouchy)
Oh yeah, Redd, the best.

Andy emerges from the "BREAK ROOM" followed by WEIR, 20s, a proportional skinny, quiet chap with light wiry hair.

REDD
What's with you?

Bart flings his hand toward the plant floor.

BART
Internship. What a waste of time.

WEIR
(shrugs)
They probably want you to learn the ropes.

BART
They, who? I don't understand why
Daddy won't put me in an office ...

Bart nods toward the administration building.

BART (CONT'D)
...Learn the ropes from there.

ANDY
Because the ropes are here, Brat.
Bart scowls and Andy leans back and shrugs.

BART
I say it's Old School. If Daddy
knew what I'm capable of ---
Bart waves toward a slab of drying holo-core.

BART (CONT'D)
He's as hardheaded as one of those
concrete panels.

WEIR
You'd understand if you were here
when Billy was whacked ...
Weir nods toward the Pre-Stressor unit with stretched cables
run through the panels.

WEIR (CONT'D)
...By one of those cables.

BART
I heard about it ...but I shouldn't
have to do dirty jobs to be
promoted.
(smirks)
Maybe Daddy needs to realize how
dangerous this job is.

Sleek and modestly attired, CASSY, 20s, a brunette with shiny
straight-hair emerges from the administration office with
coffee and folders. She saunters to the courtyard picnic
table.

BART (CONT'D)
I'll find a way to move up and into
an office. And I'll thoroughly
amuse myself in the process.

Bart smooths the sides of his hair, smiles and struts toward
the patio.

Redd, Andy and Weir trade glances. Andy and Weir shake their
heads, Redd shrugs and they part ways across the plant floor.

INT. FOSTER'S BARN LEAN-TO - MORNING

Zapp sets the kolache box on the workbench.

ZAPP
Unk probably went to the bank,
Uppy.

Uppy Dog hops on a stool, places his paws on the workbench and gazes up at Zapp.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
Gives me a chance to look at the
mower.

Zapp unfolds a wash rag from a stack on a shelf. He sees Unk and GASPS.

UNK
(stern)
You really take the cake, you know?

Puzzled, Zapp looks at the kolache box and cocks his head.

UNK (CONT'D)
You part ape? Can't see something,
so it doesn't exist?

Zapp fumbles for a bottle of soap. Uppy Dog jumps down and slips out the door.

Unk leans forward and points to the mower.

ZAPP
It got kinda wet.

UNK
(more stern)
It's full of water!

Zapp's face and ears blush red. Unk moves a little closer and towers over Zapp. Zapp lowers his head.

UNK (CONT'D)
I open my home to you and this is
what I get?

ZAPP
I'm sorry, Unk. I ---

UNK
I should send you back to your Aunt
Thorn.

Tears well up in Zapp's eyes and he looks up at Unk.

ZAPP

Oh, Unk ...if you knew what it's
like to ...to live with her, you ---

Unk displays an ornery grin and raises an eyebrow.

UNK

Oh, I know alright. That's how I
know it's a good threat.

Unk SIGHS and moves a few steps to a stool.

UNK (CONT'D)

Zapp, I am too old for this. Hoped
for you to take over the farm
...someday soon.

Unk eases down on the stool.

UNK (CONT'D)

It's hard on my old frame. That's
why I got my bees ...

Unk motions at the open door to the chicken coop.

UNK (CONT'D)

...Making more room ...to harvest
more honey.

Zapp lays the cloth and soap down.

ZAPP

I'll work day and night to repay
you.

UNK

But I can't pay you!

Zapp looks down again and shuffles his feet.

ZAPP

I'm so sorry, Unk!

Zapp looks up. A tear rolls down his cheek.

UNK

You'll have to find other work.
And I don't care what you do, but
you WILL replace my mower.

Uppy Dog drags in the top half of the wet scarecrow with half
of its support pole and drops it on the floor.

Unk motions to the scarecrow.

UNK (CONT'D)

And you'll find it pays to do
things right the first time.
Starting over costs more than just
money.

INT. PAW'S CAFE - MORNING

Aunt Thorn takes her coffee and moves over to the booth with
Magicia. Several citizens sit at the center table.

AUNT THORN

It's not our imagination, Magicia.
You heard him. Liquid gold. That
only means one thing ...crude oil.

MAGICIA

I heard him. Of course being, uh
...psychic, I knew that.

Aunt Thorn stays quiet for a beat and looks at Magicia.

AUNT THORN

Why didn't you tell me?

MAGICIA

Er, um ...I didn't think folks
would believe me, Thyra dear.

AUNT THORN

Well, Vick tricked me. Now he's
got most of my land. And he didn't
tell me about any oil.

Magicia taps her chin with a long yellow fingernail. A slow
wicked grin exposes long teeth.

MAGICIA

Have you seen oil tanks? Field
pumps?

AUNT THORN

No, but I'll make an excuse to
visit ...to look around his place.

CONTINUOUS

Behind the counter, Yank refills honey servers. Aunt Thorn
sits at the counter with her coffee mug.

YANK
Your own brother and you're afraid
to visit him?

AUNT THORN
We're not particularly close ...we
have what you might call a ...a
drive-by relationship.

CITIZEN ONE
(shouts)
Yeah. She'd like to drive by and
shoot him.

A few Patrons SNICKER. Aunt Thorn scowls at them and returns
her attention to Yank.

AUNT THORN
There's some folks upset ...worried
about Vick's bees.

YANK
Why? I love his apiary extract
...bee poop ...honey!

AUNT THORN
(grunts)
You don't live next to them.

Citizen Two rises from a table with his coffee mug.

YANK
Why don't you just ...
(flaps her hands)
...let him 'bee'?

Citizen Two nears the counter.

AUNT THORN
(stern)
I'm serious. Some are deadly. How
do we know what kind they are?

CITIZEN TWO
You should go see for yourself.

Honey sets another container of honey on the counter next to
Yank.

YANK
(to Aunt Thorn)
You sure this is about bees?

Aunt Thorn and Citizen Two trade glances and frown. Aunt Thorn gulps her coffee and PLOPS the mug down hard.

EXT. FOSTER'S FARM FIELD - AFTERNOON

Zapp and Uppy Dog plod through over-grown grass toward the concrete plant, the bridge behind them. Zapp takes out his slingshot.

ZAPP

I'm nervous, Uppy. Need to think about something else.

Zapp draws back and pops the empty strap.

ZAPP (CONT'D)

My dad could burn a hole in a bulls-eye with one of these.

They near a tree at the collapsed barbed wire fence on Fab Form's property line. At the tree base, Zapp sees a blue jay circle and peck at a cardinal.

Zapp stops, removes a stone from his pocket and flings it at the blue jay. The stone misses it by a few feet and POPS the tree. The blue jay flies away.

The stone ricochets back. Zapp GASPS and ducks. It grazes his head near his eye.

ZAPP (CONT'D)

(frowns)

Oow!

Zapp massages his temple.

ZAPP (CONT'D)

Well ...I didn't hit the cardinal.

EXT. FAB FORM PLANT FLOOR - AFTERNOON

Zapp and Uppy Dog saunter between the extruder plant floor and rails with flat cars to move aggregates to the mixer.

Bart stands atop the extruder and frowns.

BART

What's with the kid?

Redd operates a front-end loader, carries a scoop of coarse rock and dumps it onto a rail car.

At the end of the tram rails, Andy operates the rock crusher. Zapp passes the mixing platform and looks up at Weir.

Zapp gazes at the length of Pre-Stressor. He nears the rear entry steps of the administration building.

Zapp removes the painted "peach" stone from his front pocket and rubs it with his thumb.

ZAPP

For good luck. I've got to get this job.

Zapp returns the stone to his pocket and removes his slingshot from his rear pocket.

ZAPP (CONT'D)

Sorry, Uppy. You gotta stay here.

Uppy moves close to the entry door and sits. Zapp lays the slingshot next to Uppy.

INT. FAB FORM OFFICE LOBBY - AFTERNOON

Zapp scans the spacious lobby and slowly approaches the center to the RECEPTIONIST, an elderly lady with glasses on the end of her nose who looks up from her desk.

RECEPTIONIST

May I help you?

ZAPP

I'm here to meet Mr. Rockwell at three o'clock. Zapp Foster?

Receptionist looks at her appointment pad.

RECEPTIONIST

Yes, I see it here.

Receptionist points to a glass elevator located on the outside wall facing the plant floor.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

Take the elevator to the second floor. You'll find his secretary, Cassy, there.

Zapp looks at the elevator and back at Receptionist.

ZAPP

I need to get in there?

RECEPTIONIST
Does it frighten you?

ZAPP
Uh, no, I just ...I like to keep my
feet on the ground.

RECEPTIONIST
It has a floor.
(shrugs)
Just look up.

The telephone RINGS.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
I can show you to the stairwell ---

The phone RINGS again. Receptionist lifts her index finger
to Zapp and answers the phone.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
Good afternoon. Fab Form.

Zapp looks at a wall clock which reflects one minute till
three o'clock.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
Oh, he's not in today, but I can
help you.

Zapp moves to the elevator. Receptionist watches him.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
He left instructions ...expecting
your call.

INT. FAB FORM OFFICE ELEVATOR - AFTERNOON

Zapp scans the button panel, pushes the "2" and the door
closes.

Zapp grasps the railings and rests his forehead on the back
of the cage, also made of glass, overlooking the outside.

ZAPP
(sick)
U-u-u-u-u-u-h.

Zapp closes his eyes and the elevator rises.

INT. FAB FORM CASSY'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

The exterior walls consists of glass. Fresh flowers decorate her desk.

Cassy looks up from her desk and smiles. Zapp blushes red.

CASSY

You must be Zapp. Mr. Rockwell is expecting you.

Cassy points to an office with a sign "ROCKWELL" on the wall near the open door. Zapp appears timid.

CASSY (CONT'D)

(nods)

Go on in.

ZAPP

(nervous)

Th ...thank you.

Zapp turns away, unaware he bumps her desk and sloshes coffee onto a stack of papers. Cassy frowns and grabs a handful of tissues to daub the mess. She almost knocks over the flower vase, inhales deeply and SIGHS.

INT. FAB FORM ROCKWELL'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

ROCKWELL, 60s, a solemn-faced tall, refined man in a three-piece suit stands overlooking the plant floor through the glass wall with Zapp beside him.

ROCKWELL

I don't know what I could offer you. You have no experience in the work force.

Rockwell frowns and glances toward Zapp.

ROCKWELL (CONT'D)

What was it ...a paper route once?

Rockwell shifts attention to the mixing room with the mixer's blades visible through the windows.

ZAPP

I never lived in one place long enough for ...I was in school. But I'm almost eighteen.

Andy operates the rock crusher.

ROCKWELL
No plans for college?

Weir fills a bucket below the platform with concrete.

ZAPP
No, I ...I can't do that. That
kind of learning ...it's not for
me. But I'm willing to work hard
...do whatever is asked of me.

Weir reaches for a suspended control box, cables the bucket from the platform to rest on a rack beside an empty bucket on the plant floor.

ROCKWELL
Zapp, when I was a kid, my dad said
I went after work like I was
killing snakes.

Weir returns the empty bucket below the mixing platform.

ZAPP
Well, we shouldn't take on anything
we won't finish. I like to do
things ...

Zapp swings his bent arm with a fist across his torso.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
...In one 'swell foop'.

Rockwell hides a grin with Zapp oblivious to his faux pas.

Weir descends the steps to a conveyor belt. He powers it up and transports sand up to the platform into the mixer.

ROCKWELL
Okay. Everyone has their first
day.

Rockwell points out the glass to the property line.

ROCKWELL (CONT'D)
See that old barbed wire fence?

On the floor, Redd reaches for another suspended control box, lifts the full bucket from the rack over the extruder.

ZAPP
Yes, sir. Had to climb over it.

The bucket lowers onto a bar on top of the extruder. The bar causes the bucket halves to spread open and release the concrete into the extruder.

ROCKWELL

We want to replace it, so we need to clear out the old fence and haul it away. You interested?

ZAPP

Oh, yes sir!

Rockwell looks at Zapp and back to plant operations.

ROCKWELL

It's a big job. Can you be here each morning at six-thirty ...like the rest of the crew?

Redd lifts the empty bucket and the jaws SLAM shut.

ZAPP

Oh, yes sir! I live across the field behind here ...with my uncle ...Vick Foster? I can walk here ...and I won't be late.

Redd cables the empty bucket back to the rack.

ROCKWELL

There's only one day before the weekend. You can start tomorrow or wait till Monday.

Zapp stands straight and proud.

ZAPP

See you in the morning, sir.

DISSOLVE TO:

NIGHTMARE

EXT. RURAL ROADWAY - DAY

Sun shines on rural countryside of rolling hills, sparse clusters of trees and crop fields.

A handsome chipper COUPLE, late 20s, rides in a convertible. The fellow at the wheel takes a bite of an apple held by the lady. She smiles and takes a bite.

They top a hill. A FRANTIC MAN stands beside his truck and attempts to stop them. The man SCREECHES the brakes with no time to stop.

Railings dangle from the sides of a collapsed wooden bridge. The car CRASHES into the rock wall on the opposite side of the creek bank and drops to the creek bed.

FADE IN:

INT. FOSTER'S FARM HOUSE - ZAPP'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Zapp awakens from the nightmare and sits upright in a flash.

ZAPP

NO!

The moonlight reveals Zapp's face beaded with sweat. On the foot of the bed, Uppy Dog lifts his head and WHIMPERS.

Zapp's breath slows and he flops down on his side, his back to the closed door. Uppy Dog moves to the center of the bed and lays by Zapp's torso.

A tear rolls across the bridge of Zapp's nose.

The door opens a crack. Unk peeks in with knit brows.

ZAPP (CONT'D)

Dear God ...I miss them.

Unk's face changes to sorrow and he quietly closes the door.

I/E. FOSTER'S CHICKEN COOP - MORNING

Clanking metal and shuffling noises come from inside. Unk bellows out a song.

UNK (O.S.)

Chicken Coop for the Soul, a new
direction to go, Chicken Coop for
the Soul!

The head from a broken shovel flies out, then the shovel handle, followed by a flurry of empty tin cans. Unk appears at the entry with a box of dusty glass jars.

Zapp approaches across the yard from the rear of the house with a sack lunch and his slingshot. Uppy Dog runs ahead of him.

UNK (CONT'D)
 (embarrassed)
 Oh, uh ...another nightmare, huh?

Zapp slips the slingshot into his rear pocket.

ZAPP
 Hmm, yeah. Well, off to Fab Form.
 I'm a little natsy ...uh, antsy.

Unk smiles. Zapp turns toward the three-and-a-half foot corn field.

UNK
 Give 'em all you've got, son.

Zapp appears stunned, but does not turn around.

ZAPP
 (whispers)
 Son ...wow.

Zapp smiles, INHALES deep and heads for the bridge. Uppy Dog follows. Zapp bends to pet him.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
 Sorry, Uppy. You gotta stay here!

Uppy makes a guttural SIGH, cowers and returns to Unk.

INT. PHARMACY - MORNING

The shotgun building has an antique soda fountain and back bar set along one side of the elongated room. The opposite wall abuts the bakery.

On the rear wall, stairs lead up to a loft. In front of the stairs, another counter has a "PRESCRIPTIONS" sign across the front, and base cabinets behind along the wall.

Boxes of various glassware/dinnerware set atop a few tables. Upside down chairs cover the other tables.

Yank removes a stack of old newspapers from a dusty cabinet in the back bar and places them on the bar.

Yank blows dust off the top issue, shuffles through a few papers of the stack and with a puzzled expression removes one. She unfolds it full length on the bar.

INSERT

The front page features a picture of a badly mangled car in a creek bed next to a rock wall embankment below the remains of a collapsed bridge. The headline reads "YOUNG COUPLE FROM BAZAAR KILLED".

YANK
 Déjà vu! Foster!
 (looks up)
 Zapp!

INT. AUNT THORN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Aunt Thorn sorts through a trunk of winter garments and pulls out a heavy fur coat. Ebony jumps on the bed.

AUNT THORN
 Look at these, Ebony.

Aunt Thorn holds up a pair of gloves, shakes a puff of dust out and COUGHS. She holds out a muffler and examines the length of it.

Aunt Thorn grins and wiggles her hips.

AUNT THORN (CONT'D)
 Make me a swanky outfit here ...

Aunt Thorn brings the muffler closer to her nose.

AUNT THORN (CONT'D)
 ...After a good washing.

EXT. FAB FORM FENCE LINE - MORNING

Zapp tugs at a tree limb stuck in a thorn bush.

Bart approaches from the plant floor.

The limb comes loose, causes Zapp to lose his balance and stumble backward a few steps.

BART
 Whoa. Careful there, buddy. You
 need to work smart, not hard.

Zapp drags the limb toward a truck bed which loses small branches along the way.

ZAPP
 Just doing what I'm hired for.

Zapp casts the limb into the truck. He stops to wipe his brow. Bart smooths the top of his hair.

BART
If you give it everything you've
got, you spoil the boss man.

Zapp picks up a small branch and SNAPS it into smaller pieces.

BART (CONT'D)
Then they expect even more from
you.

Zapp looks toward the administration building and wrinkles his nose.

ZAPP
I don't mind. It's what I'll do
when I have my own business.

Bart leans back on a bare fence post, lifts and rests one foot on it.

BART
(grins)
Sure, kid. There are just
different rules when you work for
someone else.

ZAPP
(puzzled)
Yeah?

Zapp picks up another branch and BREAKS it up.

BART
Tell you what. Come to the break
room for lunch. Give you a chance
to relax ...cool off a bit.

Zapp looks toward the plant floor.

ZAPP
Over there?

BART
(points)
Yeah, that building. You should
hear the whistle. Just ask for me
...Bart.

ZAPP
Okay, sure.

Bart returns to the plant. Zapp hears a RUSTLE in the tall grass behind him.

Zapp looks a few feet into the field, sees the grass move and something move toward him. Uppy Dog appears in a bare spot.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
 Hey! What are you doing here?
 (sighs)
 You're not bein'-have.

Zapp moves in the direction of Uppy Dog.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
 You'll get me fired before I even
 get a good start!

Zapp sees movement in the grass and discovers a rattlesnake within striking distance of Uppy.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
 Oh, no!

Zapp removes the slingshot from his rear pocket and the "peach stone" from his front pocket. He mounts the stone and HURLS it at the snake.

EXT. FAB FORM PLANT FLOOR - MORNING

Bart watches Zapp fling the stone.

EXT. FAB FORM FENCE LINE - MORNING

The stone STRIKES a nearby rock and the snake scurries away. Zapp frowns and drops the slingshot. He lifts Uppy Dog and rubs his knuckles between his ears.

ZAPP
 You don't have a clue.

Wearing heels, Cassy appears from behind the truck with a bottle of water and uses the truck to steady herself.

CASSY
 Need a cold drink?

Cassy smiles at the sight of Uppy Dog.

CASSY (CONT'D)
 Oh, how cute. Is she yours?

ZAPP
 He ...uh, I guess I own him
 ...never thought about him that
 way.

Zapp glances over at the grass where the snake disappeared.
 Cassy hands the bottle to Zapp and reaches out to pet Uppy.

CASSY
 What's his name?

ZAPP
 Uppy Dog.

Cassy smiles warmly at Zapp and he sets Uppy on the ground.

CASSY
 Uppy? How unique.

ZAPP
 His 'P' kept falling off.

Cassy looks confused. Zapp opens the bottle.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
 Uh ...never mind.

Zapp lifts the bottle.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
 Thank you.

EXT. FAB FORM PLANT FLOOR - MORNING

Bart sees Cassy with Zapp and approaches Redd as he mounts
 the front-end loader. Andy leans on a shovel and waits for
 Redd. Weir ascends the ladder to the mixing platform.

Bart looks over at Zapp again.

BART
 (perturbed)
 Look, Redd. Trying to get Cassy's
 attention through a dirty dog.

REDD
 Relax, Bart. He's not picking up
 girls ...just old fence.

BART
 Wonder what they're talking about.

Weir overhears Bart and shakes his head. Bart, Redd and Andy watch Cassy walk toward the administration building.

ANDY
 (to Bart)
 I never figured you to be so insecure. I'm shocked, Brat.

Bart KICKS some rocks toward Andy who jumps aside and smirks.

REDD
 Don't worry about Zapp. He won't be here long.

BART
 Yeah ...
 (brightens)
 ...Yeah, right.

EXT. FAB FORM FENCE LINE - MORNING

Uppy Dog searches for the stone Zapp slung at the rattlesnake, finds it and returns to Zapp. Zapp bends down for the stone and pets Uppy Dog.

ZAPP
 Alright! Thanks, Uppy. I didn't mean to use your peach.

EXT. FAB FORM PLANT FLOOR - AFTERNOON

Andy and Zapp emerge from the "BREAK ROOM" next to a safety gear storage.

ANDY
 Got a new friend, huh?

ZAPP
 Bart? He seems okay.

Andy hands Zapp a hard hat and picks one for himself. Zapp's slingshot falls from his rear pocket onto the floor.

ANDY
 Yeah, well, don't believe much of what he says.

Andy and Zapp walk toward the rock crusher.

Bart emerges from the "BREAK ROOM", spots the slingshot and picks it up.

Zapp looks toward the parking lot at a bright red Corvette convertible.

ZAPP

Wow.

ANDY

It's Brat's car.

ZAPP

Brat?

ANDY

His daddy's a lawyer. So Brat thinks he's several cuts above us peons.

ZAPP

Why is he here?

In the distance, Bart picks up a small stone and examines it.

ANDY

Says he quit college ...doesn't need it. I say he flunked out, but won't admit it.

ZAPP

Hmm. Wow.

Andy adjusts knobs on the rock crusher control panel.

ANDY

His mom tried to raise him right. Daddy wouldn't let her and she ended up in a loony bin.

Andy powers on the rock crusher. Zapp plugs his ears. Hiding behind a steel column, Bart hurls the stone toward Zapp.

The stone misses, grazes the rock crusher, ricochets, CRASHES through the windshield of the Corvette and creates a huge spiderweb.

Bart flushes red. Zapp gives Andy a wave and returns to the fence line.

I/E. FOSTER'S BARN LEAN-TO - AFTERNOON

The open doors expose the mower. Uppy Dog sits on the seat.

Yank peeks in the door, finds Zapp on his knees in greasy clothes and wrenches scattered around the floor. Yank circles and peers at the mower.

YANK

Hope you're not putting your money into a bag with holes. End up scrapping it to buy a new one?

Zapp gives a tug at the motor, removes it from the mower and sets it on the floor. He wipes his brow.

ZAPP

I can't buy one. I ain't a rich kid ...yet.

YANK

Yet?

Zapp rises from the floor.

ZAPP

Need my in-hur-tance. Have a business like you ...free to come and go.

Zapp grabs a grease rag and wipes his hands.

ZAPP (CONT'D)

My own custom paint shop ...cars ...trucks ...boats.

YANK

Willing to make sacrifices? Do without a steady pay check? Sometimes NO pay to make sure employees get theirs?

Zapp frowns and plucks a piece of grass from the mower body.

YANK (CONT'D)

I'd like to spend more time at the lake. But I hired Honey so I can expand the bakery, not fish all day.

Zapp KICKS the mower tire.

ZAPP

And I'm stuck doing this.

Yank PATS the mower seat next to Uppy.

YANK

You're the one who took it for a swim.

Zapp relents.

ZAPP

Thanks ...but I know this. Some how, some way, I WILL have a paint shop.

Yank smiles, nods, extends her hand and Zapp shakes it.

ZAPP (CONT'D)

You can itch that in stone.

I/E. FOSTER'S CHICKEN COOP - AFTERNOON

A long black car enters the driveway and parks, the short driver barely visible. Clad in the winter clothes, Aunt Thorn emerges from the car.

Aunt Thorn hears something SCOOT across the floor and she waddles toward the coop. Uppy runs into the lean-to.

Unk appears from inside the coop with a couple of rusted holey buckets. Upon the sight of Aunt Thorn, Unk looks toward the sunny sky and back at Aunt Thorn.

UNK

Thorn, aren't you just a bit warm?

Unk moseys toward a trailer of rubbish near a burning pile of rubbish. Aunt Thorn glances around the yard.

AUNT THORN

Protecting myself ...from your operation here, your bees?

INT. FOSTER'S BARN LEAN-TO - AFTERNOON

Zapp and Yank look at each other. Uppy Dog whimpers.

ZAPP

He can take care of himself.

They continue to clean mower parts.

I/E. FOSTER'S CHICKEN COOP - AFTERNOON

Unk TOSSES the buckets into the trailer.

UNK
 You just need something to do.
 Like needle me.

Unk returns to the coop entry.

AUNT THORN
 I'm concerned about my safety
 ...uh, my chickens.

UNK
 I reckon that's a good excuse as
 any to come a-snooping.

Unk disappears inside the coop again. Aunt Thorn scans the barnyard.

AUNT THORN
 I'm not snooping. I have
 nightmares about bees.

Unk appears with a stiff filthy old blanket.

UNK
 I figure it's the other way around,
 Thorn.

AUNT THORN
 Don't call me that!

Unk moseys to the burn pile. Aunt Thorn glances across the cornfield.

AUNT THORN (CONT'D)
 I'll bet you're making honey wine
 and ---

Unk tosses the blanket onto the fire.

UNK
 That's nobody's business but mine.

Unk moseys back to the coop.

UNK (CONT'D)
 If anyone should be upset, it's me.
 All that noise at Fab Form.

Unk motions toward his hives.

UNK (CONT'D)
 (softens)
 It upsets my girls.

Unk disappears inside the coop. Aunt Thorn spots a dark silhouette shaped like an oil field pump in the distant trees.

UNK (O.S.) (CONT'D)
How's a man to keep them from swarming?

She GASPS.

AUNT THORN
Swarming!

Unk appears at the door with a rusty shotgun. Aunt Thorn GASPS and high-tails it to her car.

AUNT THORN (CONT'D)
Don't shoot! Don't shoot!

Unk looks at the shotgun and tips the barrel down. Rust and dirt pour out of the barrel onto the ground.

Aunt Thorn's car ZOOMS off. Unk shrugs and grins.

EXT. FOSTER'S BARN - REAR - DUSK

Zapp, Uppy Dog and Yank approach a huge tree between the barn and the bridge.

Zapp spots a raccoon and loads a stone into the slingshot.

ZAPP
(frowns)
I lost my favorite shooter today
...somewhere.

Zapp FLINGS the stone. It hits the ground next to the raccoon and it scuffles away. Zapp frowns.

YANK
Hey, you never told me about this.

A steep narrow staircase with no handrails leads up to a high tree house.

ZAPP
Unk built that for my dad when he was a kid.

Yank grasps the sides and ascends the stairs.

YANK
Come on.

Zapp re-pockets the slingshot.

ZAPP
I ain't climbing up there.

Yank scans across the floor of the tree house.

YANK
Wow ...you afraid of heights?

ZAPP
Uh ...no. The wood is probably rotten.

Yank shrugs and descends.

INT. FOSTER'S FARM HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

From the kitchen, Zapp crosses the room toward the rear entry. He glances at the dusty Bible on the coffee table.

ZAPP
Sorry, Mom. Can't seem to find the time.

EXT. FOSTER'S CHICKEN COOP - MORNING

Uppy Dog peeks out from the lean-to, sees Unk and runs toward him.

In the shade at the makeshift table, Unk removes brown paper with a shipping label from a package. He exposes the screened crate of a bee colony. Uppy Dog shies back a few steps.

UNK
What's the matter, Uppy? You ought to be used to my girls by now.

Zapp appears from the lean-to and wipes grease from his hands. Uppy Dog WHIMPERS.

ZAPP
You want the smoker?

Unk SPRAYS through the screen with a small mister.

UNK
Won't need that till harvest time
...
(chuckles)
(MORE)

UNK (CONT'D)

...when they're more protective of
their handiwork.

Yank appears at the lean-to entry wiping the mower blade.
Uppy Dog slips between Yank's feet.

ZAPP

Why don't you take that hive from
the tree across the field? It's
free.

UNK

I don't know what kind of bees they
are.

Unk unfolds a piece of white cloth and drapes it over the
crate.

YANK

There are folks who remove nests.

ZAPP

I sure don't want them. They get
riled when I mow.

Unk rests his hands on his hips.

UNK

Well, I don't know how and I ain't
paying anybody. Never tried it
...and I'm too old to start.

Unk enters the coop. Zapp SIGHS and returns to the lean-to.

"GREEN COUNTY SHERIFF" car pulls into the driveway and parks.
SHERIFF, 60s, a stern towering soul in dark shades emerges
and flips a toothpick side to side with his tongue.

Aunt Thorn appears from the passenger side donning the winter
clothes.

They approach as Unk appears from the coop. Uppy peeks out
of the lean-to.

UNK (CONT'D)

Well, I've suddenly become right
popular!

Sheriff shakes his head NO. Aunt Thorn squints across the
cornfield to the other end of trees.

SHERIFF

Vick, Thyra says you threatened to
shoot her yesterday.

UNK

Surely you don't believe that ...

Unk removes his hat and smooths his hair back.

UNK (CONT'D)

...but a lot of folks wouldn't
blame me if I did.

Aunt Thorn glares at Unk.

AUNT THORN

Why you ---

Unk nestles the hat back on his head. Sheriff motions toward the coop.

SHERIFF

You got a gun in there?

Unk grabs a rake and moves toward the burn pile.

UNK

Nope.

With a rake prong, Unk lifts the barrel of the gun by the trigger guard and holds it up.

UNK (CONT'D)

You want it?

Sheriff scowls at Aunt Thorn.

I/E. FOSTER'S BARN LEAN-TO - MORNING

Zapp peers out. Uppy Dog WHIMPERS. Zapp returns to the motor assembly.

Yank smiles, nods and sands the mower body.

YANK

He can take care of himself.

INT. AUNT THORN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Ebony preens and suddenly "YEOW"s. He SCRAMBLES out of the rocking chair before Magicia sits on him. Aunt Thorn enters with an open bottle of "MAY-B HONEY WINE".

Ebony climbs on the back of the couch and stares at Magicia. Aunt Thorn fills goblets.

MAGICIA

I've had tougher finds than oil.
 (frowns)
 Gold has been a poser for me.
 Don't understand that one.

Magicia reaches for her goblet with a quivering hand. Ebony slowly nestles down.

AUNT THORN

What compensation do you seek? A
 share of proceeds from the wells?

Aunt Thorn holds out her hands as if to help Magicia.

MAGICIA

Wells! Thyra dear, you ARE a
 positive one. The number of wells
 will depend on how much land we
 have to work with.

Magicia SLURPS a bit.

AUNT THORN

Hmmmmmm.

MAGICIA

I prefer a flat rate ...one
 thousand dollars.

AUNT THORN

Hmmmmmm.

(silent for a beat)
 How soon can we get started?

MAGICIA

I need time to prepare.

Magicia grins wide toothy smile.

MAGICIA (CONT'D)

We need to conjure up a plan to get
 your land back. Be patient for a
 spell, my dear.

Aunt Thorn cocks her head. Magicia polishes off the goblet of wine.

INT. PAW'S CAFE - DUSK

Zapp sits at the center table, closes a birthday card and lays it next to a large peach kolache with white icing and a blown-out candle in the center.

A sheet cake with a huge "18" and pieces missing around the edges sits in the center of the round table.

Unwrapped gifts circle the cake. A slingshot, a bottle of "EAU YOU" spray cologne, a silk-screened t-shirt with a dog like Uppy and several cards.

Several citizens seated at the table talk in quiet inaudible tones.

YANK

(to Honey)

What a wonderful cake. You should work for me.

Honey smiles and scans for more gifts.

HONEY

Well, looks like that's all.

Zapp looks around the table and up at solemn-faced Unk.

ZAPP

(to Unk)

I didn't really expect a card, but maybe a note?

UNK

Uh ...yeah, son. We'll discuss it later.

ZAPP

What's there to talk about? I'm eighteen now.

The room goes quiet.

UNK

That was all such a long time ago. There's been a terrible, terrible misunderstanding.

ZAPP

(red-faced)

Misunder ...what?

Zapp rises to his feet.

UNK

I went to see the attorney. The documents didn't specify age. Your parents used the term 'legal age'.

ZAPP

So?

UNK

(sighs)

The legal age changed several years ago ...from eighteen to twenty-one.

ZAPP

(voice cracks)

Is this some kind of cruel joke?

UNK

No, I tried to convince the attorney ...there must be a way to get around that, but it's tied up in investments ...till you're twenty-one.

ZAPP

(tearful)

Three more years?

UNK

You could collect some of it ...but taking it now ...the penalties would eat it up.

Zapp runs to the door and exits.

Party members look at each other in silence. Unk's eyes glaze over.

MONTAGE - ANGRY ZAPP THROWS HIMSELF INTO HIS WORK

EXT. FAB FORM FENCE LINE - DAY

Uppy Dog watches Zapp sledgehammer a fence post side to side and hoist it out.

EXT. FOSTER'S BARN LEAN-TO - DAY

With the mower on a tarp, the tires and steering wheel covered, Zapp sprays bright yellow gloss paint onto the mower body. Yank stretches a new cover over the seat.

EXT. FAB FORM FENCE LINE - DAY

Zapp coils a band of rusty barbed wire around his gloved palm.

ROCKWELL (V.O.)
I went after work like I was
killing snakes.

INT. FOSTER'S BARN - DAY

Zapp's roughened hands remove a fake "SHAFTA" soda can from the door of the refrigerator, twist off the top and insert a wad of bills.

INT. FOSTER'S FARM HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Zapp passes through and scowls at the dusty Bible.

INT. FOSTER'S BARN - DAY

Zapp stuffs straw into a long sleeved shirt and overalls laid prone on the table.

EXT. FAB FORM FENCE LINE - DAY

Uppy Dog watches Zapp sledgehammer a fence post side to side and hoist it out.

INT. FOSTER'S BARN LEAN-TO - DAY

Zapp and Yank heave the engine into the mower body.

EXT. FAB FORM FENCE LINE - DAY

Zapp folds wire into one-to-two foot bundles and tosses them onto the pile of coils and bundles in the truck bed among fence poles and chunks of muddy concrete.

INT. FOSTER'S BARN - DAY

Zapp's roughened hands remove a fake "SHAFTA" soda can from the door of the refrigerator, twist off the top and insert another wad of bills.

EXT. FOSTER'S FARM FIELD - DAY

Zapp drops the pole of the refurbished scarecrow into a hole. Yank helps steady the pole and they shove dirt into the hole with their shoes.

INT. BART'S BATHROOM - DAY

Bart smiles at himself in the mirror, plasters his hair with hair spray and forms a high stiff coif.

EXT. FAB FORM FENCE LINE - DAY

Uppy Dog watches Zapp sledgehammer a fence post side to side and hoist it out.

EXT. FOSTER'S FARM FIELD - DAY

Zapp and Uppy Dog ride the mower around the perimeter of the five foot corn. Zapp frowns at the scarecrow with the top half bent to the side.

Zapp passes by the bridge and grimaces at the ruts in the creek bank.

Across the field, Zapp spots Andy on his mower.

On the road beyond Andy's house, Zapp sees the red 'Vette drive through the lake entry.

EXT. MATFIELD LAKE - ROADWAY - DAY

Bart smiles, looks toward Cassy. His hair blows over to one side in one big lump!

Aghast, Bart turns his face to the steering wheel and the hair flops back down on his head.

Cassy hides a snicker.

EXT. FAB FORM FENCE LINE - DAY

Zapp tosses a rusty barbed wire ball the size of a basketball onto the pile in the truck bed.

INT. FOSTER'S BARN - DAY

Zapp's roughened hands remove a fake "SHAFTA" soda can from the door of the refrigerator, twist off the top and insert another wad of bills.

END MONTAGE

EXT. FOSTER'S BARNYARD - MORNING

Emerging from the house, Zapp and Uppy Dog walk toward the cornfield. Unk appears from around the corner of the barn and they almost bump into one another.

UNK

Oh, LORD! You scared me.

Zapp scowls and steps back.

UNK (CONT'D)

Look, you can be upset with me for the rest of time ...about something I had no control over. But no man is an island.

Uppy Dog moves close to Zapp's leg.

ZAPP

Man? I'm just a stupid kid!

UNK

May be to you, but not to me ...and not to your Father.

ZAPP

(stoic)
He's dead.

UNK

Your Heavenly Father.

ZAPP

(defensive)
What good did He do my parents?

UNK

Ah, like most folks. Blame everything on The Almighty, but don't acknowledge Him otherwise. We live in a flesh and blood world ...accidents happen.

ZAPP

What would you know about it? I don't see YOU dusting off that book on the coffee table.

UNK

(chuckles)
Oh, that. It's a fancy one ...for decorating. Mine is old and worn.
(MORE)

UNK (CONT'D)

I keep it close by ...in my night stand.

Zapp stares at Unk for a beat and comes to himself.

ZAPP

I got to get to work.

Zapp and Uppy Dog resume their trek past the bent scarecrow toward the bridge. Unk calls after Zapp.

UNK

When you were small, it was planted deep inside you. You'll find it.

EXT. AUNT THORN'S BACKYARD - MORNING

Aunt Thorn and Magicia relax at a table covered with an umbrella. Magicia sips a goblet of honey wine. Ebony lays prone atop an end table near Aunt Thorn and stares at Magicia.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR bores a hole. Seven extra bore attachments lay aside.

Magicia points a bony finger to the field beyond the backyard.

MAGICIA

About getting that land back, you sure you can't wait ...instead of digging up your lawn?

THORN

It may be early for you, but not me. I'm too excited to wait.

Magicia lifts her goblet a little and her hand shakes.

MAGICIA

Oh, it's NEVER too early for me.

Magicia scans across the field to Unk's place.

MAGICIA (CONT'D)

We need to catch him off guard. Find a weakness?

Aunt Thorn glances at the goblet and grins.

AUNT THORN

Honey wine. Vick's always been a sucker for honey wine ...and he's been warned about drinking in public.

Magicia swirls the wine.

MAGICIA

Ah! My wine cellar. I'll DIG up some with an extra kick.

Aunt Thorn watches Magicia gulp some wine.

AUNT THORN

You sure you have any left?

MAGICIA

Why, of course!

AUNT THORN

Really old, huh?

MAGICIA

Oh, it's old alright. I inherited a winery from my father. He had quite a personal stash. I save it for special purposes.

Magicia CHUCKLES and takes another gulp.

MAGICIA (CONT'D)

(frowns)

Hope I don't come across any mice. Nasty little fiends.

EXT. FOSTER'S BARNYARD - MORNING

Unk approaches his truck by the garage and glances over at Aunt Thorn's place. He hears the HUM of the heavy equipment.

UNK

What is she up to now?

EXT. FAB FORM PLANT FLOOR - AFTERNOON

Andy watches Zapp at the distant fence line. Bart nears.

BART

You find the kid that interesting?

ANDY

Kid, huh? Zapp's really grown
...toned up. Mr. Rockwell is
really pleased with him ...his
work. So is Cassy.

BART

Pfffff.

ANDY

(frowns)
What's with you, Brat?

Bart moves to the extruder.

CONTINUOUS - PRE-STRESSOR CONTROL PANEL

Bart slips a wrench in his rear pocket and scans the area.

Redd operates the front-end loader and carries a scoop of
gravel. Weir descends from the platform to operate the
conveyor belt and move gravel from the crusher to the mixer.
Bart spots Andy at the rock crusher.

BART

Zapp, huh? I'll zap you.

Bart approaches mid-length of the Pre-Stressor cables and
hollers to Andy.

BART (CONT'D)

Hey!

Andy turns. Bart points at scattered gravel at his feet.

BART (CONT'D)

Scoop this up.

Andy takes his shovel and a broom to the cables.

Bart returns to the Pre-Stressor controls and powers it up.
The arrow on a "PSI" gauge displays rising pressure.

Andy takes a scoop of gravel toward the crusher. The cable
nearest Andy slowly straightens out from the increasing
pressure, the hook-link gives way and releases the cable.

Andy hears the SNAP and turns around. The cable flies toward
him and breaks the shovel handle. The broken shovel head
strikes Andy's leg and knocks him down. The handle shoots
over the fence like a spear into the Corvette windshield.

ANDY
AAAAAGGG! HELP!

Weir looks over from the conveyor belt.

WEIR
OOOOHH, NO!

Weir runs to an "EMERGENCY" telephone on the outside wall of the "BREAK ROOM".

Redd turns off the tractor, dismounts and runs to Andy. Andy holds his leg and writhes in pain.

REDD
What happened?

Weir hangs up the receiver.

ANDY
The cable!

Weir runs to Andy and kneels at Andy's side. Redd looks toward the unmanned Pre-Stressor.

WEIR
Just sit still, And. Help is on the way.

Bart looks at his windshield and fumes.

EXT. FOSTER'S FARM HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Magicia slinks along the house toward the rear with a tall slender brown paper bag.

She stops near the door, hears the tractor, raises her brows, smiles and slips into the house.

EXT. FOSTER'S BARN - REAR - AFTERNOON

The double doors stand wide open with all sorts of old clutter set aside on the grass.

Zapp appears in the "FAB FORM" truck with the bed full of barbed wire balls, folded bundles, fence posts and concrete chunks.

Unk attaches a chain to the tractor.

Zapp emerges from the truck and Unk mounts the tractor.

UNK
You're home early.

Unk starts the tractor and slowly rolls out a dusty dark green sports car. Unk shuts off the tractor.

ZAPP
How long has that been in there?

Unk steps down.

UNK
Too long.

Unk RATTLES the chain to unhook the car. Zapp draws near.

ZAPP
What is it?

UNK
Sixty-nine Nova. A friend owed me
...a lot. He couldn't pay, so he
gave me this.

Zapp picks up the free end of the chain and lays it on the rear of the tractor.

ZAPP
What are you gonna do with it?

Unk removes his hat and wipes his brow with a kerchief.

UNK
Someone repainted it. Needs to be
restored to original ...make it
worth a lot more.

Unk returns his hat.

UNK (CONT'D)
You did a good job on the mower,
son. This would be a good
challenge ...if you'd like.

Zapp GASPS and grins.

INT. FOSTER'S FARM HOUSE - KITCHEN - DUSK

Unk notices a lower cabinet door ajar.

Unk reaches to close it and sees the long brown paper bag laying down. He picks it up and removes an unlabeled bottle of wine from the bag. Unk raises his brows.

UNK

Well, look here. How long has this
been here?

He uncorks it, smells it, fills his cheeks and takes a huge
swallow.

UNK (CONT'D)

AAAAAAAH. HICK! Oops.

Unk looks toward the front and rear entry doors. He replaces
the cork and takes the bottle out the rear door.

EXT. FOSTER'S FARM HOUSE - NIGHT

Dim lamps glow inside. Magicia peeks in a front window,
around to a side window and around to the back. Unk's garage
stands empty.

MAGICIA

(growls)

Uhhhh ...he wasn't supposed to
leave.

INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

Unk lays on a pew in the dark sanctuary, sings loud "CHICKEN
COOP FOR THE SOUL".

Sheriff shines a flashlight in Unk's face. In a stupor, Unk
blinks at the light. Sheriff backs away a step.

Unk raises up on his elbow and uses his hand to shield his
eyes from the bright light.

UNK

It's just like Saul! LORD!

Unk's eyes adjust to the image of the annoyed PASTOR in a
black suit and top hat.

PASTOR

This is not the Damascus road.

Sheriff shines the light on his "GREEN COUNTY SHERIFF" badge.

SHERIFF

You're not Saul ...you're not blind
...but you will be fined.

INT. FOSTER'S FARM HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Zapp crosses the room toward the rear entry and glances at the dusty Bible on the coffee table.

UNK (V.O.)

When you were small, it was planted
deep inside you.

ZAPP

I need to find the time
...sometime.

Perched near the door, Uppy Dog cocks his head to one side.

EXT. FOSTER'S BARNYARD - MORNING

Zapp flings open the

BARN DOORS, the

CHICKEN COOP DOORS and the

LEAN-TO DOOR. He scans across the six foot corn around to the open empty garage.

ZAPP

(puzzled)
Where could he be, Uppy?

Uppy Dog WHIMPERS. The phone RINGS. Uppy follows Zapp to the house.

CONTINUOUS - NEAR THE BARN/LEAN-TO

Zapp rinses suds from the Nova. Yank wrings out a sponge. Uppy sits on the porch and watches.

ZAPP

(scowls)
If I had my money, I'd get him out.

YANK

(shrugs)
It may be better you don't have it
...since he wants to sit it out.

ZAPP

Hey!

Zapp showers Yank with the sprayer.

YANK
Aaaaaakkkkk.

ZAPP
Thanks, friend!

YANK
You could fritter it off ...be left
with nothing.

Aunt Thorn's car PUTTERS in.

ZAPP
Uh, no. It's Aunt Thorn again.

Aunt Thorn emerges from her car wearing the winter clothes.
Ebony appears in the window with his paws on the door.

Uppy Dog jumps down from the porch and hides prone
underneath.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
You can shed that coat, Aunt Tho-
...Thyra. There's nothing to be
afraid of.

Aunt Thorn scowls and softens again.

AUNT THORN
You're too naive to be afraid
...and too young to be out here
alone.

Zapp nods his head toward Yank.

ZAPP
I'm not alone.

Aunt Thorn glances at Yank. Yank nods.

AUNT THORN
Hah. I mean Vick. You need
someone to look after you.

Zapp coils the hose on the hanger mounted on the barn.

ZAPP
He'll be back soon.

AUNT THORN
But you're just a child. You need
adult supervision.

ZAPP

I'm an adult, no matter what the law says, and THIS is my home.

AUNT THORN

Vick doesn't set a good example for you. Next thing I know YOU'LL be in the hoosegow.

Zapp's face reddens. Yank's eyes widen. Zapp steps toward Aunt Thorn and Yank steps back.

ZAPP

Who do you think I am?

Aunt Thorn backs up to her car.

AUNT THORN

I won't cheat you ...lie to you like the others.

Aunt Thorn gets into the car. Zapp stares at Aunt Thorn as she pulls away.

ZAPP

I'll show HER.

Zapp revolves the hose head from "SHOWER" to "JET", aims and shoots a hard stream toward the rear of her disappearing car.

EXT. ANDY'S HOUSE - BACK PORCH - AFTERNOON

Bart leans on the front fender of his Corvette. Andy sits in a rocking chair, his elevated leg in a cast and examines a large expensive pocket knife.

ANDY

You want ME to have it?

BART

Sure, friend. Daddy gave me a new one I like better anyway. Maybe take your mind off what happened.

ANDY

I still don't know. But I sure felt it.

BART

No doubt.

(clears his throat)

You know ...Zapp is after your job.

ANDY
What makes you say that?

BART
He sucks up to Rocky so much, you'd think he was a straw. He might even take MY job.

Andy shifts in the chair.

ANDY
Well, that ungrateful - uuuuh ---

Andy winces and shifts his cast.

BART
He finished the fence, so Old Man Rockwell asked him to stay on. Then you get clobbered. Convenient, huh?

Andy turns red and stares over the field to Foster's.

ANDY
Why ...that little rat.

EXT. AUNT THORN'S BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

Magicia joins Aunt Thorn at the table with the umbrella and wine. Ebony "YEOW"s, SCRAMBLES off the chair before Magicia sits, crawls under a bush and disappears.

Heavy equipment Operator uses all the bores in the hole, none on the ground.

AUNT THORN
Vick's in jail. The honey wine and your spell worked perfectly.

MAGICIA
Uh, uh ...yes, my spell.

AUNT THORN
How clever. I'm sure he has no money for bail, but I do. Like dangling a T-bone in front of a wolf.

Magicia CHUCKLES.

MAGICIA
And the exploration?

AUNT THORN

(frowns)

He runs into a lot of rock ...slows
the process down.

MAGICIA

(sighs)

Into every life, some stones must
gall.

Magicia CHUCKLES and gulps some wine.

EXT. FOSTER'S FARM HOUSE - PORCH - MORNING

Zapp sits on the steps with a cup of coffee and dusts the Bible with a dish towel. The book falls open near the back quarter. Uppy Dog lays near the hot coffee sniffs it.

ZAPP

'Do unto others as you would have
them do unto you'.

Zapp looks up.

INT. COUNTY JAIL VISITING ROOM - MORNING

Aunt Thorn seats herself at a table next to a wall of windows. Unk emerges from a thick door on the opposite side of the glass with a vent opening to hear.

UNK

What the ...? You here to gloat?

Aunt Thorn frowns and looks side to side.

AUNT THORN

We can talk here. I'm safe from
your apiary friends ...and your
antics.

UNK

Antics? Like what?

Unk takes a seat.

AUNT THORN

You don't have a shotgun in there.

Aunt Thorn looks around again.

UNK

Pfffff.

AUNT THORN
I'm here to make you an offer.

UNK
For what?

AUNT THORN
Your land.

Unk sits up straighter and moves his chair closer.

UNK
How much of it?

AUNT THORN
Why ...the land I sold you.

UNK
We can't farm just half and get by.
That's why I bought your share.

AUNT THORN
You won't be able to farm forever.
Getting old ...same as everybody
else. And you can't count on Zapp
to stay.

UNK
(squints)
What do you want with it?

AUNT THORN
What does it matter to you?

Unk puts his elbow on the table and rests his chin in his hand.

UNK
Good question ...and I should have
known I'd get no answer.

AUNT THORN
I'll give you one and a half times
what you paid me. With a fifty-
percent return, you can get out of
here now ...have plenty left over
for your bees or whatever else you
have up your sleeve.

Unk nods slowly.

EXT. ANDY'S HOUSE - BACK PORCH - AFTERNOON

Andy sits in the rocking chair with his leg elevated.

Accompanied by Uppy Dog, Zapp with a bakery box in hand approaches from the Nova parked at the side of the house. Zapp sees Andy.

ZAPP

Brought you a little something.

Zapp reaches across the porch floor and extends it to Andy. Andy doesn't respond, only stares at Zapp.

ZAPP (CONT'D)

Spent some of my savings for this,
but you're worth it.

Zapp opens the box of half dozen kolaches covered in icing and shows it to Andy.

ZAPP (CONT'D)

It's the apple kind. You know
... 'an apple a day keeps the doctor
away'?

Andy stays silent. Zapp partly closes the box and sets it down on the porch next to Andy's foot.

ZAPP (CONT'D)

You must be in some kind of pain.

ANDY

You here to butter me?

Zapp appears puzzled and looks at the box.

ZAPP

Butter? Nah ...you don't need
butter.

Andy shakes his head and motions toward Fab Form.

ANDY

You aiming to take my job.

Zapp looks confused.

ZAPP

Why would I do that?

Andy KICKS the box into the lawn and FLINGS the kolaches out. Zapp GASPS. Tears well up in his eyes. Uppy Dog SNIFFS at a kolache.

Zapp looks away. He sees Yank's truck enter the road to the lake and disappear behind a hill.

Zapp walks toward the Nova. Uppy Dog struggles to keep a kolache in his mouth and trots to the car.

EXT. MATFIELD LAKE - SMALL CLEARING - AFTERNOON

Zapp finds Yank's truck. The open tailgate exposes fishing tackle and rod-n-reels.

Zapp hears a RUSTLE in tall foliage near the water. Yank appears with an aluminum creel and walks toward Zapp and Uppy Dog.

YANK

Hey, Zapp.

Zapp motions toward Andy's with his hand.

ZAPP

(solemn)

I was just across the way.
Wondered what you were up to.

Yank sets a bucket in the bed of the truck. Uppy SNIFFS at the edge of the water.

YANK

Fishing.

Yank leans against the open tailgate. A small coyote appears at the edge of the woods.

YANK (CONT'D)

You alright? Not even gonna try?

Zapp removes his slingshot from his pocket, loads a stone, FLINGS it at the coyote and HITS a nearby tree. The coyote scampers away.

ZAPP

All right? Never right. Don't
know why I bother to try at all.

Uppy Dog moves slowly to where the coyote was and searches for the stone.

ZAPP (CONT'D)

(sighs)

I know this. That 'treat others
like you want to be treated' stuff
don't work.

EXT. FAB FORM PARKING LOT - MORNING

Zapp parks the Nova, INHALES deeply and sits for a moment.

MOTHER (V.O.)
(sweet soft)
You're never alone. You have a
friend who sticks closer than a
brother.

Bart's 'Vette sits a few parking spaces away. Cassy
approaches as Zapp emerges from the car.

CASSY
A new car ...how nice.

Zapp glances at the 'Vette and SIGHS.

ZAPP
It's not new.

CASSY
Well, it's new to you, isn't it?

Cassy scans the car.

CASSY (CONT'D)
We'll have to go for a ride
sometime.

Zapp smiles sheepishly.

CASSY (CONT'D)
I thought you were done ...with the
fence.

ZAPP
Mr. Rockwell asked me to return
...to stay on 'cause Andy's hurt.

CASSY
(nods, smiles)
Well, I'm glad. You're a good
worker. Welcome aboard.

Cassy extends her hand to Zapp and he timidly shakes it.
Cassy returns the shake with a firmer shake.

CASSY (CONT'D)
Well, come on!

INT. FAB FORM BREAK ROOM - MORNING

Through a window toward the parking lot, Bart notices Zapp and Cassy. Bart frowns at Redd and Weir.

BART

So Rocky wants me to train a kid?

Redd MUNCHES on a large bag of "TATER CHIPS".

REDD

Someone needs to take Andy's place.

WEIR

Who are you to talk, Bart? You're in training yourself.

Bart scowls at Weir and moves to the door of the "TOOL ROOM" and disappears inside.

Zapp enters, pulls a kolache out of his lunch sack and lays the sack on the table.

Bart emerges from the tool room and removes his fingers from his front jeans pocket.

Bart smirks at Zapp, seats himself at the table, breaks off a piece of chocolate bar and stirs it into his coffee.

BART

(to Zapp)

Where'd you get the jalopy?

Zapp reaches for a napkin.

ZAPP

It's my great uncle's. I'm gonna paint it...make it like new. Gonna have a paint shop of my own some day soon.

WEIR

You think you're old enough ...to run a business?

ZAPP

I may not know much, but I can paint. And I've got help with the office ...the numbers and stuff.

Zapp lays the kolache on the napkin.

BART
 (to Zapp)
 Health food, huh?

Zapp shrugs and seats himself.

BART (CONT'D)
 (to Redd)
 Have you noticed that junk is
 detrimental to your physique?

Redd looks down at his torso, shrugs and MUNCHES on. Weir
 frowns at Bart.

BART (CONT'D)
 Think what it would be like to be
 fit ...you know, like Zapp here
 ...Superman.

Bart SCOOTs his chair back, stands up and reaches for his
 coffee.

ZAPP
 I could never be Superman. Wear
 those tight pants?

Zapp glances over at Bart.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
 Like yours? Not me ...

Zapp grabs some extra cloth on the thigh of his jeans.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
 ...my jeans would come apart if
 they were that tight.

Bart turns red. Zapp bites his kolache. Mr. Rockwell enters
 and nears the table.

ROCKWELL
 It's our turn for a company
 inspection. And the machinery is
 due for the annual check-up, so
 we'll wind them down by the end of
 the day.

Rockwell glances aside at Bart.

ROCKWELL (CONT'D)
 The inspectors and maintenance crew
 will be here tomorrow, so you won't
 be on the plant floor.

Rockwell looks at Zapp.

ROCKWELL (CONT'D)
You'll all be paid for the day off.

Zapp smiles.

EXT. FAB FORM PLANT FLOOR - MORNING

Bart stands beside the extruder with an empty clipboard.
Zapp whisks a hand broom over the rock crusher control panel.

BART
Hey, Zapp. Over here.

Zapp looks toward Bart and moves swiftly toward the extruder.
Uppy Dog appears on an aggregate pile in the background.

Bart slaps his hand on the extruder next to a ladder.

BART (CONT'D)
I need you to climb up there.

Zapp looks at the metal rungs leading eight feet high to the top of the extruder.

ZAPP
Up there?

BART
Yeah. You'll have to do it. My pants are too tight.

ZAPP
Al ...alright.

Zapp nervously climbs the extruder ladder.

Zapp EXHALES.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
Made it.

BART
I need that stack of papers at the control panel.

Zapp scans for the papers. The open extruder top exposes the empty concrete bay. Zapp looks in and sees pages of paper scattered about.

ZAPP

(echo)

Only papers I see are in this hole.

Bart holds up the clipboard.

BART

Oh, well. The wind must have blown them. Climb in and get them.

Zapp looks down at Bart.

ZAPP

Me?

(points)

Down there?

BART

Yeah.

ZAPP

How?

Zapp scans around. A rope attached to an iron ring near the control panel hangs down the length of the extruder concrete bay.

BART

That rope ...just use that.

Zapp grasps the rope.

ZAPP

We climbed in school, but I was never very good.

Zapp clasps the rope between his feet and slowly descends into the pit.

Bart grasps a control box and cables a bucket from the rack to the extruder.

INSIDE THE EXTRUDER

Zapp picks up scattered papers.

OUTSIDE THE EXTRUDER

Bart lowers the bucket above the extruder bar.

INSIDE THE EXTRUDER

Zapp straightens the papers, folds them lengthwise in half and attempts to put them in his back pocket.

The pit gradually grows dark. Zapp looks straight up at the SCREECH of the bucket jaws on the bar. The jaws open wide with Zapp frozen in fear.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!

Zapp, white as a sheet, stares up at the open jaws of the empty bucket to the aluminum ceiling above and faints.

OUTSIDE THE EXTRUDER

Bart SNORTS to hide his laughter.

In the background, Weir and Redd remain oblivious to the incident.

INT. FAB FORM ROCKWELL'S OFFICE - NOON

The lunch whistle BLOWS.

Rockwell approaches the glass wall, watches Bart lift the bucket with the cable and the jaws SLAM shut.

Rockwell scans the floor, sees Redd and Weir walk toward the "BREAK ROOM". At an aggregate pile, a shovel stands upright in the gravel with Uppy Dog perched atop the pile.

Rockwell scans left and right.

ROCKWELL
(mumbles)
Wonder where Zapp is?

EXT. FAB FORM PLANT FLOOR - NOON

INSIDE THE EXTRUDER

Zapp staggers to his feet. Pale and shaking, he leaves the folded papers behind and struggles up the rope out of the extruder.

ATOP THE EXTRUDER

Zapp sees no one on the floor. Through the "BREAK ROOM" window, he sees Redd, Weir and Bart inside.

With a stunned gaze, Zapp

DESCENDS THE LADDER

And walks toward the parking lot. Uppy Dog runs up from behind him. Zapp trips over Uppy Dog and falls on the pavement. Uppy WHIMPERS and tears fill Zapp's eyes.

ZAPP
Leave me alone.

Zapp staggers to his feet and points toward Foster's farm.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
(shouts)
Go home.

Uppy Dog WHIMPERS, tucks his tail and runs toward Unk's farm.

INT. PHARMACY - AFTERNOON

CABINET MAKER installs a new counter on the old prescription cabinets. ELECTRICIAN pulls wire to an outlet box, folds it upward and moves his ladder to wire down to the next outlet.

Zapp, pale and withdrawn, moves a few dusty glasses from a box into the bar sink full of suds.

Yank descends the ladder with several dusty bulbs.

YANK
The world is full of people who
thrive on control ...dish garbage
out they won't eat. Narrow-minded.

Zapp wrinkles his forehead.

YANK (CONT'D)
Open-minded folks consider the
whole wide picture ...look truth in
the eye ...then choose the straight
and narrow.

Yank CASTS the bulbs into the trash.

ZAPP
Well, I don't need to control
anybody ...

A glass slips in Zapp's hand and he catches it.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
...but me.

YANK
That's what makes you Zapp.

Zapp BLOWS dust out of the glass. It shoots back into his face. Yank pretends not to see it.

ZAPP
(cough)
Well, being Zapp stinks.

Yank SLAPS her open hand on the counter.

YANK
Let's go fishing.

INT. FAB FORM ROCKWELL'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Bart enters with a full clipboard. Rockwell over-looks the plant floor. Redd hoses down the rock crusher. Weir sweeps the mixing platform.

ROCKWELL
What is Zapp doing? I haven't seen him since this morning.

BART
Zapp? Hmmm. He was doing some paperwork. Come to think of it, I got busy ...haven't seen him either. Maybe he quit.

Rockwell faces Bart.

ROCKWELL
Paperwork?

BART
Yeah, get him familiar with the extruder operation. Maybe it was too much for him.

Rockwell raises his eye brows.

BART (CONT'D)
He didn't seem to understand ...started complaining.

ROCKWELL
I saw his dog. You'd better ---

BART
Better what?

Rockwell turns toward the glass.

ROCKWELL
Complaining, huh?

BART
Yeah ...guess he can't hack this
line of work.

EXT. MATFIELD LAKE - CREEK MOUTH - AFTERNOON

Tall foliage hides a big slab of rock around a curve from the lake. Yank kneels by the creek and Zapp sits nearby toward the lake.

ZAPP
I even yelled at Uppy.

Yank unhooks a small cable strung across the surface of the creek to a pulley on the opposite side which returns to a reel next to her.

YANK
I'm sure you're forgiven.

ZAPP
Bart knew I was in that pit.

Uppy WHIMPERS. Zapp CASTS a rod-n-reel line toward the lake.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
Maybe it was revenge ...that he
ganged up with Andy.

VIEW FROM THE WATER

Zapp's cast PLOPS near a school of fish. A big fish chases the lure. Zapp reels in the line and lifts it out just before the fish bites.

CONTINUOUS

Zapp peers at Yank's contraption.

YANK
He's jealous of your attributes.

Yank slowly pulls the lower line and the reel lets out cable to the pulley.

ZAPP
Huhh. Att-ra ...uh ---

Yank continues to pull a large net with weights along the bottom onto the slab.

YANK
 Your qualities. Your ambition.
 You are attractive. He wants to
 play games, you won't and he hates
 it.

Uppy Dog backs up into the foliage.

ZAPP
 But HE's the one with the fancy car
 and his ---

Zapp re-casts the line. Yank spreads out the net.

YANK
 Not material things. You have a
 vision ...a specific dream ...not
 just 'I wanna be rich'.

Yank plucks crawdads from the net and places them in her
 creel.

YANK (CONT'D)
 Worse than jealousy is envy. He
 not only hopes your dream will
 fail, he doesn't want you to have
 it at all.

VIEW FROM THE WATER

Zapp's cast lands near another school of fish. Two fish
 chase the lure. Zapp reels in the line just before they
 bite.

CONTINUOUS

ZAPP
 I'm beginning to wonder if I'll
 ever have it.

YANK
 Patience, Zapp. We're not to
 despise the day of small
 beginnings. We do what we can and
 let Our Lord do what we cannot.

Zapp lays down the rod, moves toward Yank, plucks off a
 crawdad and inspects it.

ZAPP
 Crawdads.

YANK
 Crawdads ...mud bugs ...crayfish.
 Call them what you like. Fresh-
 water shrimp to me.

A crawdad pincer gets a-hold of Zapp's finger.

ZAPP
 Ouch!

YANK
 Grab them from behind.

Zapp pulls the crawdad off and drops it in the creel.

ZAPP
 Don't they ever clamp on you?

YANK
 I know about being pinched.

EXT. FOSTER'S BARNYARD - DUSK

Zapp appears stupefied and emerges from the Nova. Unk
 appears from the barn.

ZAPP
 Unk. You're here.

UNK
 I had to get out of there ...before
 I started talking like them.

ZAPP
 What do you mean?

UNK
 Nasty words ...nothing but really
 nasty words.

ZAPP
 But how did you get out?

Unk mosey's toward the house.

UNK
 Sold your Aunt Thorn's land back to
 her.

ZAPP
 But ---

UNK

Be honest with yourself. You don't want to farm it. And I'm winding down.

Unk looks toward Aunt Thorn's house and sees a dirt pile. He shakes his head.

UNK (CONT'D)

It's not final. Maybe I'll sell something ...return the earnest money.

EXT. PHARMACY - MORNING

Yank's portable sign reads "FULL SERVICE RESTAURANT COMING SOON".

INT. PHARMACY - MORNING

Yank stands on a ladder and polishes the wooden back bar. Uppy Dog watches through the window.

PLUMBER installs faucets on the stainless sinks behind the bar. Electrician mounts bases for three rows of recessed lights the length of the building.

Zapp sits on the floor and paints another paw print in a staggered line from the entry to the rear wall stairs.

ZAPP

This can't get back to Unk. See me as a failure again ...send me to ---

Yank descends the ladder and moves it a few feet over to polish the next area.

YANK

He won't think you're a failure. You're a blessing to him ...if he never says so.

Zapp frowns and examines his work.

ZAPP

You don't know Unk.

Rockwell enters from the bakery doorway. Yank ascends the ladder and spots Rockwell.

YANK

May I help you?

Rockwell scans the room.

ROCKWELL
Just curious, that's all.

Rockwell spots Zapp. Zapp discovers Rockwell and his face flushes red.

ROCKWELL (CONT'D)
You working here now?

Zapp gets to his feet.

ZAPP
Yes, sir. I need the ...uh ---

ROCKWELL
You quit. Is that true?

Zapp looks to the floor.

ZAPP
Yes, sir.

ROCKWELL
Well, can you tell me what happened? Maybe consider coming back?

Zapp shakes his head NO.

ZAPP
It's the extruder. I ...I'm not cut out for the paperwork.

ROCKWELL
The extruder? You were to work with Redd ...take Andy's place at the rock crusher.

ZAPP
I don't think I'm wanted there.

ROCKWELL
(chuckles)
Hah. I'm not wanted there ...by the one who wants to run the place. His father is a large stockholder in Fab Form ...but he hasn't run me off yet.

Zapp relaxes a little.

ZAPP

I really need the money.

Rockwell smiles broadly.

ROCKWELL

The position is open for you. See
you in the morning?

A little smile graces Zapp's face and he NODS.

ZAPP

Thank you, sir.

EXT. AUNT THORN'S BACKYARD - MORNING

Patches of grass dot the dirt-clodded back yard. Operator bores another hole. Several bores lay on the ground.

Looking frazzled, Aunt Thorn sets down a goblet of wine and paces around the umbrella table. Magicia suddenly appears.

Ebony jumps from the chair, scrambles across the lawn and disappears.

MAGICIA

Thyra, you look lovely this
morning.

Aunt Thorn sits on the edge of her chair. Magicia scans the table and sees one goblet between them.

AUNT THORN

Are you sure there is oil here?

Magicia PATS Aunt Thorn's forearm and slides the goblet toward herself.

MAGICIA

Of course, my dear. These things
take time.

AUNT THORN

(growls)
You're not the one paying him to
exa ...exca ...dig up my yard.

Magicia takes a gulp.

MAGICIA

That's the way it is ...spend money
to make money.

INT. FOSTER'S BARN - AFTERNOON

Yank tapes brown paper to the windshield of the Nova. Zapp filters brown primer paint into a paint sprayer.

ZAPP

I'm afraid to go back. Andy's already mad.

Yank places a razor on the tape and rips it to finish.

YANK

He'll see the light. Quitting is not an option for you.

ZAPP

Why not?

Yank waves her hand toward the Nova.

YANK

You want to paint this car. Now that it's sanded, you have no choice. Not painting it would be worse ...and a big waste.

Zapp places the top onto the sprayer. Yank picks up a few pieces of brown paper from the floor.

YANK (CONT'D)

After being offended, a crowd of disciples left Jesus. Then He asked the twelve if they wanted to quit, too.

Yank nears the work table and discards the paper into a can.

YANK (CONT'D)

Peter said it best, 'To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life!'

Zapp reaches for the air compressor hose and attaches it to the sprayer.

YANK (CONT'D)

Once we come so far ...grow so much ...there's nothing to go back TO. You can't unlearn what you know.

Yank grasps a rubber mallet.

ZAPP

I'm thankful to Mr. Rockwell.
 (beat)
 And I need the money.

Yank taps the lid and seals the primer paint can.

YANK

This may sound cliché ...about
 doing good to your enemies? Warm
 up to him ...be soft-hearted!
 That's easy for you.

ZAPP

Soft-hearted, huh?

EXT. FOSTER'S FARM HOUSE - PORCH - NIGHT

Unk sits in a chair and polishes a rifle. Zapp exits the house.

UNK

Got a prowler around here.

ZAPP

Who?

UNK

Don't know. Haven't seen anyone.
 I just sense it.

INT. FOSTER'S BARN - NIGHT

Zapp puts a roll of cash inside another "SHAFTA" can and returns it to the refrigerator. He walks to a work-table covered with the balls and folds of barbed wire.

Zapp picks up a basketball-sized ball of wire and looks out the doors. The moonlight silhouettes the leaning scarecrow.

MOTHER (V.O.)

Whatever you set your hand to, do
 it with all your might ...as unto
 the LORD.

INT. FAB FORM BREAK ROOM - MORNING

Through the window, angry Bart watches Zapp park the primer-painted Nova.

CONTINUOUS

Seated at the table, Bart stirs a chocolate piece into his coffee. A variety box of kolaches sits in the center.

Zapp, Redd and Weir sit at the table and nosh on kolaches. Rockwell stands at end of the table.

ROCKWELL

Andy's back.

Zapp's eyes widen.

ROCKWELL (CONT'D)

He'll have light duty in the administrative offices. Help Cassy sort through some old files.

Bart's face flushes red.

ROCKWELL (CONT'D)

I'll be in meetings most of the day, so if you need anything, ask Cassy ...or Andy.

Mr. Rockwell exits. Weir reaches for the "AUTOMOTIVE" section of the newspaper.

REDD

(to Weir)

Decided what color you want for your new truck?

WEIR

Maybe metallic blue. What do you think, Bart?

Bart stares at his coffee in silence.

ZAPP

I sprayed primer on mine. Got it all set up in the barn.

WEIR

Alright!

ZAPP

(to Bart)

You like red, huh?

BART

Sure, I suppose. We work together, don't we?

Zapp looks at Redd.

ZAPP
No, I mean the color red. Like
your crayon car.

Bart scowls at Zapp.

BART
Crayon car?

ZAPP
Yeah. You know, like a box of
eight colors. No metallic.

Bart rises from the chair.

ZAPP (CONT'D)
(sympathetic)
Hey, I like metallic, but I don't
mind crayon cars.

Bart finishes his coffee and exits. The door SLAMS. Zapp
looks at the door and back at Weir.

WEIR
I think you hit a sore spot ...with
the 'crayon' remark?

ZAPP
I didn't mean any harm. We all
like different things.

Zapp chooses a different kolache.

EXT. AUNT THORN'S BACKYARD - MORNING

Operator has all the bores attached, none on the ground.

Aunt Thorn sits at the umbrella table with an empty bottle of
"MAY-B HONEY WINE" in her lap. She stares at the yard. Ebony
jumps on the table.

AUNT THORN
(slurs to Ebony)
I was never superstitious, but
maybe YOU are bad luck.

Magicia approaches smiling.

MAGICIA
Good morning, my pet.

Ebony "YEOW"s, jumps and beelines out of sight. Magicia seats herself.

AUNT THORN

My pet! We've dug everywhere and found nothing.

Magicia looks around the tabletop.

MAGICIA

I know these things ...absolutely.
(ahem)
No honey wine?

AUNT THORN

No, this is B.Y.O.W. My wine is gone.

Aunt Thorn lifts the empty bottle and lays it on the table. Magicia reaches to Aunt Thorn's forearm.

MAGICIA

Patience, my dear Thyra.

Aunt Thorn pulls away.

MAGICIA (CONT'D)

(dramatic)
There is oil here.
(shrugs)
I've seen it in my spirit.
(spreads her hands)
I see everything in my spirit.

EXT. FAB FORM PLANT FLOOR - MORNING

Bart glances up toward Rockwell's office windows. He removes a hook-link from the Pre-Stressor cable and installs an old cracked one.

BART

Worked like a charm before.

Bart attaches the cable to the Pre-Stressor.

I/E. FAB FORM BREAK ROOM - MORNING

Zapp looks out the window and sees Bart by the Pre-Stressor. Cassy hands Bart a clipboard. Zapp looks at the clock. It reads six-twenty.

WEIR

You sure know how to get under his skin, Zapp.

ZAPP

And I know how to make it up to him.

Zapp takes Bart's coffee cup to the coffee station. He looks for a piece of the chocolate bar and finds an empty wrapper.

In a drawer, Zapp finds a chocolate bar with the words "CHOCOLATE" and "SOFTENER".

FLASHBACK

INT. FOSTER'S BARN - AFTERNOON

YANK (V.O.)

Warm up to him ...be soft-hearted!
That's easy for you.

END FLASHBACK

INT. FAB FORM BREAK ROOM - MORNING

The "CHOCOLATE" wrapper lays aside. Zapp melts the chocolate into Bart's coffee.

Bart enters with a clip board. Zapp sets the coffee on the table next to the newspaper. Weir sees the "CHOCOLATE" wrapper and says nothing.

ZAPP

Sorry if I upset you. I made you some coffee.

Bart plops down in a chair. Zapp and Weir exit.

BART

Redd, how would you like to drive my car sometime?

REDD

Would I? Of course.

Bart taps the clipboard.

BART

Want to help erect the new fence?

REDD

Sure.

BART

Get into Rocky's good graces.
You're sure to get a raise.

REDD

Uh ...okay. And I get to drive
your 'Vette, huh?. Wow.

Bart slaps Redd on the shoulder.

BART

Of course, buddy.

Redd beams a broad smile.

EXT. AUNT THORN'S BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

Aunt Thorn stares at the drilling equipment.

AUNT THORN

For a thousand dollars, I should
have several wells by now.

MAGICIA

(clears her throat)

You misunderstood. The deal is a
thousand dollars ...EACH!

Aunt Thorn struggles to her feet and puts her hands to the
sides of her face like a visionary.

AUNT THORN

I'm beginning to see things in my
spirit. I see you running like
Jesse Owens.

Ebony "MEOW"s. Magicia looks down at Ebony with a huge dead
rat at Magicia's feet.

Magicia GASPS, eyes and mouth wide open.

MAGICIA

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!

Magicia scrambles from the yard.

EXT. FAB FORM PLANT FLOOR - MORNING

Weir and Zapp walk toward the crusher and aggregate piles.

WEIR
You made Bart feel like a king,
Zapp.

ZAPP
Really? I did?

WEIR
Yeah. He's liable to sit on his
throne all day.

Zapp tilts his head and wrinkles his nose.

ZAPP
It would be nice if he stayed
inside.

Weir CHUCKLES and walks toward the mixing platform. Redd comes out of the "BREAK ROOM" toward Zapp.

REDD
Hey, Zapp. Watch here from this
end ...make sure the cables line up
straight while I pressurize them.

ZAPP
Okay.

Redd moves to the Pre-Stressor controls and adjusts a few knobs.

REDD
Alright. It's ready to go.

The Pre-Stressor pulls tension on the cables. Zapp stands with a shovel at the opposite end.

With coffee in hand, Bart emerges from the "BREAK ROOM" and stands outside the door to watch Zapp.

Redd checks the rising pressure dials. Zapp nods to Redd and discovers a round smooth rock.

Weir ascends the mixing platform.

The cable attached to the faulty hook-link lets go with a mighty WHOOSH.

REDD (CONT'D)
What the ---

Zapp bends over to pick up the rock. The cable zooms over him, hits a rock pile and showers rocks over Bart's "Vette.

Weir snickers and vanishes into the mixing room.

Bart flushes red with rage.

EXT. RURAL ROADWAY - AFTERNOON

Zapp drives by. Aunt Thorn walks from the mailbox, stumbles on a dirt clod and falls to the ground.

ZAPP

Do good to your enemies.

Zapp stops the Nova, reverses and parks in the driveway.

EXT. AUNT THORN'S HOUSE - REAR PORCH - AFTERNOON

Aunt Thorn sits on a chair.

ZAPP

All those dirt clods. Why is he digging anyway?

Zapp lifts Aunt Thorn's foot up on a coffee table.

AUNT THORN

Uh ...my well is going dry, and uh ...he's looking for more water.

ZAPP

(puzzled)
Oka-a-ay?

Zapp takes a small pillow from another chair.

AUNT THORN

Zapp, you're so good. The way I've been behaving ...or rather NOT behaving ...I ---

Zapp tucks the pillow behind her heard.

ZAPP

Forgiven. I'll come check on you tomorrow, Aunt Thyra.

Zapp turns to go.

AUNT THORN

I wonder ...

Zapp looks back.

AUNT THORN (CONT'D)
 ...would you close the barn doors
 before you go?

ZAPP
 Sure ...no problem.

EXT. RURAL ROADWAY - DUSK

In the pelted 'Vette, Bart nears Aunt Thorn's house and sees Zapp's Nova near the road. He slows and watches Zapp close the barn doors.

BART
 So ...his paint shop, huh?

EXT. AUNT THORN'S BARNYARD - NIGHT

Flames engulf the barn. The Matfield fire whistle BLOWS. Aunt Thorn hobbles onto the porch to a chair.

A siren BLARES. FIREFIGHTERS scramble off the "MATFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT" truck and roll out hoses to the roadside hydrant.

EXT. FOSTER'S FARMYARD - NIGHT

Zapp and Unk stand in Unk's truck bed watching the flames. Unk holds Uppy Dog. Zapp squeezes a bundle of barbed wire tighter.

UNK
 That fire is too hot to be an
 accident. Way too hot.

Zapp looks up.

EXT. AUNT THORN'S BARN - NIGHT

Flames shoot up higher than the Firefighters can spray. A GRINDING SQUEAK comes from the barn.

FIREMAN ONE
 Get back. It's gonna fall.

The barn COLLAPSES, spreads embers around the perimeter and continues to burn bright.

ON THE PORCH

Aunt Thorn sits on the chair with her foot up.

FIREMAN TWO
Probably faulty wiring, Thorny.

AUNT THORN
It is pretty old. At least it
didn't burn my chicken coop.

Aunt Thorn stares at the flames and embers.

INT. FAB FORM BREAK ROOM - PRE-DAWN

A shadow enters

THE TOOL ROOM

One hand holds a flashlight and the other searches tool box drawers. A hand closes around several cracked Pre-Stressor cable hook-links.

EXT. FAB FORM PARKING LOT - MORNING

Zapp parks the Nova.

MOTHER (V.O.)
Faced with being stoned by his
friends, David encouraged himself
in the LORD.

Zapp nods.

INT. FAB FORM BREAK ROOM - MORNING

Bart plops "REAL MEN" magazine down on the table. Zapp, Redd and Weir sit at the table with their breakfast of kolaches.

REDD
That was a regular inferno last
night. Lit up the whole sky.

Bart looks for Zapp's reaction. Unmoved, Zapp nods and eats his kolache.

WEIR
The biggest blaze I ever saw.
Isn't that your aunt's place, Zapp?

Bart moves to the coffee station and pours his coffee.

ZAPP

Yeah, it is.

Bart reaches for a piece of chocolate next to the cracked cable hook-links. His face flushes red. Plans for the new fence lay under the links.

Bart stares, stirs his coffee and slips the links into his pocket.

BART

The area around the extruder needs to be swept. The maintenance crew didn't clean up at all.

Bart faces them. Zapp raises his hand.

ZAPP

I'd be glad to. You won't have to get your clothes dirty.

Bart frowns and sweeps a lock of hair from his brow.

WEIR

Or mess up his hair.

ZAPP

Is that why you never open the top on your convertible?

Bart takes his coffee and hastens out.

EXT. AUNT THORN'S BARNYARD - MORNING

Fireman One kicks burnt remains into the smoldering pile. Aunt Thorn seats herself on the edge of the porch floor.

FIREMAN ONE

An accelerant was used to set the fire. That's why it burnt so fast. There was no saving it.

AUNT THORN

Set on purpose, huh?

Aunt Thorn grows angry.

FIREMAN ONE

You know of anyone who would want to do this to you?

AUNT THORN

Vick! Or Magicia! Or maybe Zapp?

Fireman One looks inquisitive.

FIREMAN ONE
 Hmm. That many people upset with
 you?

Aunt Thorn frowns at him.

EXT. FAB FORM BREAK ROOM - MORNING

Redd reaches for the knob of the ajar door and stops. He
 listens to Bart on the phone.

BART (O.S.)
 You know. Redd. The fat clod
 actually thinks I'm gonna let him
 drive my 'Vette. Hah.

Redd flushes red and backs away from the door.

EXT. FOSTER'S FENCE LINE - MORNING

Unk digs post holes at the property line shared with Aunt
 Thorn. Aunt Thorn appears.

Unk idles the tractor.

AUNT THORN
 You putting the fence back up?
 That land is mine now!

Unk frowns, removes his hat and wipes his brow. He gestures
 toward Aunt Thorn's place.

UNK
 Not yet, you old 'thorn in my
 side'!

AUNT THORN
 Don't call me that!

Unk
 Accusing me of burning down your
 barn? I'll pay back what you put
 down on this, but the deal is off!

Aunt Thorn GASPS.

EXT. FAB FORM PLANT FLOOR - MORNING

Zapp sweeps nuts and bolts away from the extruder. Redd spots Bart and nears him.

REDD

Bart, you know, your head is as empty as one of those molds.

BART

What?

REDD

Should have known you would just use me ...like everyone else. You don't deserve friends.

Redd walks away.

BART

Yeah, well ---

CONTINUOUS

Uppy Dog sniffs the ground near the foot of the mixing platform.

At the rock crusher, Zapp scoops a shovel of gravel the front-end loader missed and tosses it onto an aggregate pile.

Redd dumps the load of rock on a flat car for the crusher and backs away.

From the mixing platform, Weir powers up the conveyor belt. Scoops of gravel travel up to the mixer.

Bart watches Zapp pick out a stone, polish it on his pants and slip it in his pocket. Bart shakes his head and spots Uppy Dog at the base of the platform.

Bart moves toward Uppy Dog, looks toward Redd, Weir and Zapp. With everyone pre-occupied, Bart puts Uppy Dog on the conveyor belt.

Redd scoops more rock for the rock crusher. Zapp shovels missed rocks into the front-end loader bucket.

Zapp looks up at Weir on the mixing platform and discovers Uppy Dog riding the conveyor up to the concrete mixer.

Zapp waves his arms to get Weir's attention. Weir doesn't hear him and disappears inside the mixing room. Frantic, Zapp scrambles up the ladder. Redd sees Uppy ride up.

ON THE PLATFORM

Zapp slips on some pebbles and falls on his rear next to the edge. He looks down, shuffles himself away with his feet, gets up and hurries toward the mixer.

Uppy falls from the belt over the mixer. Zapp grabs Uppy just sort of the mixing blades.

Zapp soothes Uppy Dog. He looks down from the platform and quickly steps back.

ZAPP

Oh, no!

Weir steps out of the mixing room. Zapp looks at Weir.

ZAPP (CONT'D)

How do I get back down?

WEIR

You afraid of heights?

ZAPP

Uh ...no ...I-I ...yeah.

WEIR

Don't let fear fog your reason.
How did you climb up?

ZAPP

I-I didn't have time to think about it.

WEIR

Grab a-hold and face the ladder.
Then climb down like you came up
...in reverse!

ZAPP

Okay. I'm used to doing things backwards, I guess.

Zapp puts Uppy Dog in his shirt, puts one foot on the top rung, grasps a rail tightly, faces the ladder, grasps the second rail and clings to them.

WEIR

Down one step at a time. You'll be back on terra firma before you know it.

ZAPP

But ---

WEIR

Just look at the ladder ...or
better yet, look up. Close your
eyes for that matter. Just don't
look down.

Weir watches Zapp descend a step, smiles and returns to the mixing room.

Bart watches Zapp descend a few steps and enters the "BREAK ROOM".

INT. FAB FORM CASSY'S OFFICE - MORNING

With his lower leg still wrapped, Andy holds an armful of folders. He looks down from the glass wall and watches Zapp descend the ladder. Andy frowns and NODS.

EXT. FAB FORM PLANT FLOOR - MORNING

Zapp tosses rocks into the rock crusher with Uppy Dog perched on top of the aggregate pile. Andy tosses a small rock and hits Zapp's leg. Zapp appears upset. Andy gives a faint smile.

ANDY

Zapp, when Uppy was on the belt,
Bart was watching.

ZAPP

(puzzled)
Would he do that ...put him on
there? On purpose?

ANDY

Yes ...yes, he would ...and he did.

Zapp's face turns to anger. The noon WHISTLE BLOWS.

INT. FAB FORM BREAK ROOM - NOON

Zapp BURSTS through the door and looks around. Cassy hangs a clipboard.

ZAPP

Blast it! Where is he?

Redd enters from behind.

CASSY

Bart? He took the rest of the day
off. Said he felt crappy.

Zapp whirls past Redd toward the parking lot.

REDD

Hey, wait!

From the entry, Redd watches Zapp with Uppy Dog on his heels.

EXT. MATFIELD LAKE - CREEK MOUTH - NOON

A very angry Zapp sits with Yank on the rock slab. Uppy Dog
sits near the foliage.

ZAPP

I don't want to fight, but Bart
tried to hurt ...kill an innocent
puppy. Like to know where he is.

Zapp spots a skunk across the creek.

YANK

When our LORD overthrew the money
tables, he was flat angry ...and he
did it TWICE. There are times it's
a sin NOT to fight back.

Zapp takes several stones from a chest pocket.

ZAPP

I've been taught not to pay back
evil for evil ...how people will
get what they dish out.

Yank unhooks the cable to her crawdad net. Zapp lays the
stones on the slab.

YANK

Self-defense is another matter!
You're not a doormat.

Zapp gets out his slingshot.

YANK (CONT'D)

The LORD commanded His people to
war and drive their enemies out.
You've heard, 'Be sure your sin
will find you out'.

Yank reels in the net.

ZAPP
That's what He meant?

Zapp mounts a stone.

YANK
(nods)
If they didn't, He considered it
sin.

Zapp FLINGS a stone extra hard, hits the skunk on the rear
and it scampers away.

YANK (CONT'D)
Hey, you got him!

ZAPP
(frowns)
I was aiming for his head!

Zapp picks up his stones, casts them into the foliage and
stares at the lake. Yank fills her creel with crawdads.

YANK
Better for you to fall on a stone
and be broken ...

Uppy Dog lays a stone on the slab beside Zapp.

YANK (CONT'D)
...Than for the stone to fall on
you and grind you to powder.

Zapp frowns and picks up the stones. Uppy Dog runs back to
the foliage.

EXT. FOSTER'S BARN - SIDE - AFTERNOON

Yank waits in her truck. Unk stands next to the tractor.
Zapp exits the barn doors with the Nova inside.

ZAPP
(to Unk)
On our way to buy my paint.

Unk looks concerned.

UNK
I bought a little something for you
...goes with the paint. It's
laying on the table in there.

Zapp manages a little smile.

ZAPP
Thanks, Unk.

Zapp closes the barn doors.

EXT. MATFIELD LAKE - HILL - AFTERNOON

Through binoculars, Bart sights in

SIDE DOORS ON FOSTER'S BARN

Facing the cornfield.

Zapp gets into Yank's truck and Unk rides the tractor toward the fence line.

Bart casts the binoculars into the passenger seat, locks his 'Vette and struts toward Foster's bridge.

I/E. FOSTER'S BARN - SIDE - AFTERNOON

Bart slinks into one of the doors. A group of different colored spray paint cans sit on a nearby shelf.

BART
Well look here. Crayons!

Bart shakes a can of spray paint in each hand.

BART (CONT'D)
I feel like coloring.

CONTINUOUS

Bart hears an engine and looks out the ajar barn door. Yank and Zapp drive into the yard. Bart slips out the side door and stands flat against the wall behind the ajar door.

Zapp enters and sees his open empty "SHAFTA" cans on the floor.

YANK
Zapp, look at your car!

The vandalized Nova dons several colors of paint, topped off written in very large letters, "DUMMY".

Zapp burns red with anger.

EXT. FOSTER'S FARM FIELD - AFTERNOON

Bart runs from the

SIDE OF THE BARN

into the seven-foot

CORN FIELD.

FROM THE BARN DOORS,

Zapp and Yank emerge. Zapp sees corn stalks move and motions to Yank.

Zapp and Yank run toward the

LEFT SIDE OF THE FIELD NEAR THE CREEK.

DEEPER INTO THE FIELD

Bart slumps down and moves slow.

FROM THE LEFT SIDE OF THE FIELD

Zapp sees the corn stalks move. Zapp and Yank reach

THE EDGE OF THE FIELD

And jump to see over the corn. Yank points to the tree house.

Zapp and Yank sprint toward the

TREE HOUSE.

Zapp storms up the stairs.

Bart walks backward

DEEPER INTO THE FIELD.

IN THE TREE HOUSE

A board in the floor breaks and Zapp's foot goes through.

DEEP IN THE FIELD

Bart turns around and stares into the face of a huge barrel-chested barbed-wire scarecrow filled with concrete chunks and barbed fingers extended out.

BART

AAAAAHHHHH!

IN THE TREE HOUSE

Zapp loosens his foot, gets on his feet again and loads a stone into his slingshot. Yank climbs half-way up the stairs.

FROM THE CENTER OF THE FIELD

Bart skedaddles to the

LEFT REAR OF THE FIELD

At the edge of the corn, Bart runs to

THE BASE OF A HUGE TREE

And hides behind it.

AT THE TREE HOUSE

YANK

You can't hit him now.

AT THE BASE OF THE HUGE TREE

Bart GASPS, inhales a bee and COUGHS several times.

IN THE TREE HOUSE

ZAPP

I don't have to.

Zapp grimaces, FLINGS the stone and SMACKS the bee hive above Bart dead center.

The bees emerge in hot BUZZING anger. Bart looks up.

BART

Ahhhhhhh!

Bart skedaddles to

THE CREEK BANK.

The bees sting him and the swarm closes in behind.

EXT. FOSTER'S FARM CREEK - AFTERNOON

Bart YELLS, runs into the creek, stays under water and floats down stream. Bart comes up for air in the midst of the swarm and ducks under again.

Zapp's money comes floating to the top and the current strengthens. The money flows downstream.

UNDER WATER NEAR THE MOUTH TO MATFIELD LAKE,

Bart slams into Yank's crawdad net. The crawdads pinch him.

He climbs up the net

ABOVE WATER

And the bees sting.

EXT. FOSTER'S FENCE LINE - AFTERNOON

Aunt Thorn bounces across the field in her big car. Unk digs a post hole, sees the car and idles the tractor.

UNK

(grunts)

What now?

Aunt Thorn gets out of the car, hobbles toward Unk with a paper, "SURVEY" written across the top and a drawing of their plots.

AUNT THORN

I need to make sure you're not digging on my property.

UNK

If I am, it's because you moved the property line. This is where the fence was.

They hear a light HISS and look toward the hole Unk dug. They look at each other puzzled and back at the hole.

A black mist comes up, then spews out and grows to a high fountain showering them both.

They WHOOP and HOLLER for joy.

AUNT THORN

The old witch was right! She was right all along!

Aunt Thorn throws the survey to the wind.

UNK

What old witch?

AUNT THORN
Never mind!

EXT. MATFIELD LAKE - CREEK MOUTH - AFTERNOON

On the slab of rock, Bart lays prone. Yank plucks crawdads from the net. Zapp collects the sopped money.

Uppy Dog licks Bart's face.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

An aerial sweep closes in on the street. Sheriff walks Magicia toward the

"CITY JAIL" ENTRY.

Magicia's arms latch onto his arm. She bats her eyes and gazes up at him.

THROUGH THE PHARMACY WINDOW

Honey ties a honey-dipper with red ribbon around the neck of a pint jar of "UNK'S HUNNY".

She places it

IN THE PHARMACY SHOWCASE

In a row of pint jars around wicker baskets of bee-by-products - candles, "BEESWAX BEAUTY BAR" soap, "SWEET-LIP BALM".

Tall bottles of "UNK'S HUNNY WINE" circle the show case.

IN FRONT OF PAW'S CAFE

Yank's portable sign reads "GRAND OPENING --- FREE KOLACHES!"

Mr. Rockwell, Cassy, Zapp, Andy, Redd, Weir and Yank surround a table which displays a coffee urn and dozens of kolaches.

ACROSS THE STREET

Uppy Dog struts back and forth in front of "A TO Z BODY SHOP".

Zapp's Nova sits at the curb painted metallic blue with white "YENKO" decals.

IN FRONT OF PAW'S CAFE

Cassy approaches Zapp.

CASSY
What a gem!

Cassy plants a lip-stick kiss on Zapp's cheek and his face flushes red.

ROCKWELL
(whistles)
A Yenko! Haven't seen one of those
in years.

Yank nods her head toward the Yenko and winks at Zapp.

YANK
The decals. A little gift from
Unk?

Zapp smiles and NODS. Weir looks at the body shop sign.

WEIR
'A to Z'? Shouldn't Zapp be first?
And who is 'A'?

Andy points to himself.

ANDY
The first investor.

Rockwell holds up his coffee.

ROCKWELL
(to Zapp)
And I'll be the second. One step
ahead of the snakes.

ANDY
Brat should open a shop. Auto
Glass repair.

Everyone LAUGHS.

REDD
He'd save a lot of dough ...but
he'll be tied up for a while.

EXT. FAB FORM FENCE LINE - DAY

Near the dusty pelted 'Vette, Bart, sweaty and dirty with stringy wet hair struggles to level a fence post and fill the hole with dirt.

EXT. FOSTER'S BARNYARD - DAY

The chicken coop dons fresh paint and glass windows.

Unk mounts the riding mower. Brown bees and "UNK" decorate the yellow paint. Yank points to the "UNK".

YANK

(to Zapp)

Does that stand for 'Unk' or artist
'unknown'?

Zapp CHUCKLES. Unk powers on the mower. Uppy Dog runs from the mower to Zapp.

An attached trailer holds gloves, a water cooler, two shovels and two garden rakes. Toward the front Ebony lays stretched out prone.

Aunt Thorn dressed in overalls, a straw hat and barefoot dangles her legs over the back.

Zapp picks up Uppy Dog and strokes him.

In the distance, dirt fills the line of post holes. An oil pump occupies one of the holes.

Unk drives toward the post holes. Aunt Thorn flings her hat into the air like a frisbee.

Zapp and Yank LAUGH.

Yank winks.

YANK (CONT'D)

Young man, let's go fishing!

FADE OUT.