

Appalachia

by

Jenn Charlene Jacobsen

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FADE IN:

INT. JOE'S LIVING ROOM AND THE PLAN - NIGHT

Joe sits on the living room couch, eyes in a daze, staring at his television, beer in one hand and cigarette in the other.

NARRATOR

Joe came from a long family line of moonshiners but modern times brought modern thoughts into the Appalachian Mountains. Joe knew his new business plan would dash the hopes of his family. All the relatives wanted Joe to follow in his daddy's footsteps and carry on the family tradition of makin' 'shine. It was time to share the new plan with Joe's son.

Joe sits down his beer and picks up the remote and flips the remote with a hypnotic like stare in his eyes and talks quietly to himself.

JOE

Why ain't there nothin' on. 400 channels and nothins' on.

Joe takes a deep drag from his cigarette and sighs as he exhales.

The telephone rings and MAGGIE is on the line.

JOE

Hello.

MAGGIE (ON THE PHONE)

Hiya Joe. How is your day going?

JOE

Pretty well Maggie, I'm pulling together my thoughts on a new business.

MAGGIE (ON THE PHONE)

What's the business?

JOE

I'll talk to you about it in person, it's too complicated to talk about on the phone.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE (ON THE PHONE)

Now you've got me intrigued, I can't wait to hear about it.

JOE

Well, my brain needs a break from it so how about going to see a movie this weekend?

MAGGIE (ON THE PHONE)

I would love to.

JOE

After I pick up some groceries on Saturday, we'll grab a bite at the diner and go see a matinée.

MAGGIE (ON THE PHONE)

Perfect, I need to get out of this apartment.

Mikey rings the door bell of Joe's place.

JOE

Maggie, I got to run, somebody rang my doorbell.

MAGGIE (ON THE PHONE)

Sure thing Joe. See you at church.

JOE

Bye Maggie.

Joe walks to the front door, opens it, and is surprised to see his son Mikey.

MIKEY

Hi Pops!!!!

Joe and Mikey hug and they both go inside and sit on the couch.

JOE

What brings you this way son?

MIKEY

I was just out in your neck of the woods looking for a part for my truck at the Leader Brother's junkyard and I also have something I would like to talk with you about--

JOE
(interrupts) I'm glad you
stopped in son. Common' in.
Would you like beer?

MIKEY
Sure Pops!

JOE
You know where the beer is, help
yourself.

Mikey exits and returns with a beer.

JOE
I suppose now is as good time as
any to tell you about the new
family business plan.

MIKEY
Really? You can't possibly give up
makin' 'shine Pops.

JOE
Well, I know 'shine goes back a
long ways in our family but times
are a changin' and we need to think
about our family's future. These
new tactics by the revenuers to
bust our stills have everyone on
edge in these parts. Some
moonshiners have stopped, some have
moved on, and others like myself
are staying put and planning a new
business model.

MIKEY
So what's the business Pops?

JOE
Growin' marijuana.

Mikey is shocked.

MIKEY
No way! You don't know nothin'
about growing pot Pops. Maggie has
a hard enough time with you makin'
moonshine, she will flip over you
growin' weed.

JOE

Maggie doesn't have to know everything Mike, but she will be happy I'm gettin' out of the 'shine business.

MIKEY

That's true. So how do you go about growin' pot?

JOE

I just bought a correspondence course. I found it with a Google search and I knew this was the answer to our problem of makin' 'shine.

Joe hands the binder of the course to Mikey.

JOE

Here, take a look.

Mikey flips through the binder and takes a hit off his beer.

JOE

Take a look at those profit margins.

MIKEY

Take a look at those juicy buds!

Joe and Mikey are pouring through the contents of the marijuana growing course.

MIKEY

Just how much did you pay for this course Pops?

JOE

Two hundred and ninety nine bucks, but I got a certificate for ten free pounds of "Bud Right" fertilizer.

MIKEY

You got ripped off.

JOE

Just wait till first harvest and tell me that Mikey.

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY

I don't know about this Pops, where do you sell it?

JOE

The course lists several medical marijuana clinics willing to pay top dollar for the best quality product.

MIKEY

This all sounds crazy Pops. Why not stick to something that works like making 'shine?

JOE

Well Mike it's like this: there is too much law around these days and besides, makin' 'shine is old school. We need to keep up with society and society is telling us that 'shine is out and pot is in. It's easy to grow and there's a high profit margin, much higher than 'shine.

Mikey gets a huge smile on his face and looks at Joe.

MIKEY

I'm in Pops!

The telephone in the kitchen rings and Joe walks out of the room and answers it.

JOE

Hello.

DANNY (ON THE PHONE)

Hi, is this Joe?

JOE

Yea, who's this?

DANNY (ON THE PHONE)

This is Danny, Mikey's roommate. I can't reach him on his cell phone. Does he happen to be there?

JOE

Well yea, he's here, hang on a minute.

Joe sets down the phone and walks back into the living room.

(CONTINUED)

JOE
Hey Mike, telephone.

MIKEY
Thanks.

Mikey walks into the kitchen

MIKEY
Hello.

DANNY (ON THE PHONE)
Hi Mikey, how did it go?

MIKEY
I haven't told him yet.

DANNY (ON THE PHONE)
But that's what you were going out there for. Are you chickening out now?

MIKEY
No, Pops got me off on a tangent talking about his new business of growin' weed.

DANNY (ON THE PHONE)
Really? That would be awesome. I'll be his best customer. (laughing)

MIKEY
I hope Pops knows what he's doing.

DANNY (ON THE PHONE)
Me too, I want some of his product. So when are you going to tell him?

MIKEY
I'll tell him today, after we finish talking about pot thing.

DANNY (ON THE PHONE)
OK, cool. I won't keep you but call me and let me know how it went.

MIKEY
Sure thing, talk at ya soon.

DANNY (ON THE PHONE)
Bye.

Mikey walks back into the living room and sits on the couch.

(CONTINUED)

JOE

What did he want?

MIKEY

He wanted to remind me to pick up
some milk while I was out.

JOE

Well I won't keep you and I'm
getting tired anyway so can we
continue this tomorrow?

MIKEY

Sounds great, I'll be here in the
morning around 9.

Mikey gets up from the couch and walks to the door.

JOE

OK Mike. See ya in the morning.

Mikey leaves Joe's house.

INT. DANNY AND MIKEY GET READY - DAY

In the kitchen of Mikey's and Danny's house, Danny is making
coffee. In walks sleepy eyed Mikey just waking up.

DANNY

Good morning sunshine!

MIKEY

(groggy)

Mornin'

DANNY

Ready for a cup of coffee?

MIKEY

(half asleep)

Please, I really need it today. My
dad put me through a ringer last
night and I didn't get a chance to
tell him.

DANNY

You promised me that you would tell
him, I'm going crazy.

MIKEY

I promise I'll tell him today when
I go over there.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

That would make me so happy.

Mikey sips his coffee.

MIKEY

I have an idea! Let's both tell him!

DANNY

Are you sure he would be OK with it?

MIKEY

I'm pretty sure. The old man is reforming his redneck ways and getting more of an open mind these days.

DANNY

OK, I'm down with it. I'll go get ready.

MIKEY

This should be interesting.

INT. JOE MEETS MIKEY'S BOYFRIEND DANNY - DAY

Mikey and Danny are knocking on the front door of Joe's house and Danny is scared to death. Joe answers the door.

JOE

Hey Mike come on it.

MIKEY

Pops, I'd like you to meet Dan.

Joe AND Danny shake hands and all three go inside and sit on the couch.

MIKEY

Pop's, you've known about me being gay for some time, and ahhh, mmmmm, well, I'll just come right out and say it. Danny is my boyfriend and he is also now my roommate

Joe's eyes get wide, his jaw drops, and he is speechless.

MIKEY

and he is a pot fanatic. He is even a great gardener and I know he

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY (cont'd)
could help us out with the pot
farming.

JOE
How can you do this to me?
(yelling)

MIKEY
I'm not doing anything to you Pops!

JOE
I'm shocked Mike. (yelling) What
would your mother say if she were
still alive? (yelling)

MIKEY
Don't bring mother into this!
(yelling) I came out to you both
years ago and she was OK with it.

JOE
Listen son, you and Dan are likely
to get your heads blown off by some
bigot hopped up on 'shine. I can't
believe this. (sternly)

MIKEY
Please don't be angry or hold
anything against me or Danny.
(seriously)

JOE
What will my friends think?

MIKEY
Well Pops, I hate to tell you, but
one of your friends has a lesbian
daughter and she has a girlfriend.

JOE
What? Who? This is getting crazier
by the minute. (yelling)

MIKEY
I'm not going to say who it is I'm
just saying there are many more gay
couples than you realize.

JOE
This is nuts. both of you, get out
of my house!

Danny and Mikey quickly leave.

INT. JOE APOLOGIZES TO MIKEY - DAY

The rest of the night goes by and then Joe calls Mikey in the morning. Mikey answers the phone.

MIKEY (ON THE PHONE)

Hello.

JOE

Hi son. I want to say I'm sorry about yesterday.

MIKEY (ON THE PHONE)

It's OK Pops. I wasn't expecting a smooth outcome.

JOE

Well, I want to make it smooth now. You are my kid and if you want that lifestyle it's your choice.

MIKEY (ON THE PHONE)

It's not a choice. If I had a choice, I would go through life without all the prejudice and the pain it causes.

JOE

Well, I still don't understand it but I do love you and want you to help me with the new business as long as you don't flaunt it in front of me or my friends.

MIKEY

We can do that and I know Danny will be a great asset for the business with his green thumb.

JOE

I want you to come over tomorrow and continue our plans for the new business venture.

MIKEY

Ok Pops. I'll be over in the morning. Bye

JOE

Bye

Joe and Mikey hang up their phone as the scene fades.

INT. MIKEY AND DANNY PLAN TO SEE JOE - NIGHT

Mikey hangs up the phone and looks up at Danny whom just walked into the room.

MIKEY

Pops apologized and he wants to work with both of us! We just can't flaunt it as he says.

DANNY

That's no problem, how cool is this!

MIKEY

Yea, I thought it was going to be much harder. My old man really is opening his mind.

DANNY

I'm happy to help him with his new business too. It's a win-win deal for sure.

MIKEY

Yep. I'm lovin' it

EXT. JOE LEAVES AND DANNY WANTS TO PLAY - DAY

Joe is outside working when Mikey AND Danny pull up.

MIKEY

Hiya Pops! We're here to start work on the new venture!

JOE

Mornin' boys. I need you guys to build the temporary green house. I've already bought all the material and here are the plans.

Joe hands the Marijuana Growers Course to Mikey.

JOE

Make sure it has southern exposure and check chapter 2 on greenhouse construction.

MIKEY

No problem Pops.

Joe walks off while Mikey and Danny ponder over the greenhouse plans.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

Hey Mikey. Wanna' go and check out the hay loft in the barn?

MIKEY

No way, what if my father catches us. It would be the end of our business and put a strain on our relationship.

DANNY

OK, but I will still steal a kiss from you now and again when the old man is away.

Danny gives Mikey a quick kiss on the lips.

MIKEY

Ok, lets build the greenhouse.

INT. JOE, DANNY, AND MIKEY TOAST - NIGHT

Establishing shot of Joe s house.

Joe, Mikey, and Danny all sitting on Joe s couch after a hard days work. Joe and Mikey are drinking beers and Danny is drinking white wine.

JOE

Y'all did a nice job building the greenhouse. According to the pot growin' class, it's just in time for the pre-spring planting.

MIKEY

Thanks Pops! Just turn Danny loose in that greenhouse in the morning and you'll have plants in 3 days.

DANNY

Now don't over sell me Mikey (laughs).

JOE

Well Danny, I'll put you to the test and see just how green your thumb is.

DANNY

Don't worry Joe, I won't disappoint you.

Joe raises his beer.

(CONTINUED)

JOE
Here's to growin' pot.

DANNY
Here, here

MIKEY
Cheers!

EXT. THE GREENHOUSE DAYS - DAY

Shot of Danny and Mikey driving car and pulling up to the greenhouse at sunrise.

Danny and Mikey get out, and walk into the greenhouse. Long shot of greenhouse with a little snow around it. Slow pan into the sunrise while the narrator talks.

Music: Elegant, inspiring,

NARRATOR
Danny took the helm of the operation in the greenhouse almost immediately and Mikey worked well under him. After a while, it was clear that Danny was in charge and even Joe mostly took Danny's direction.

Show date in video, "April, 2001"

A month goes by visualized by the same long shot of the greenhouse with the snow melted and gone.

Show date in video, "May, 2001"

Inside the greenhouse, Danny and Mikey are busy watering, weeding, and fertilizing the now much taller plants.

DANNY
Hey Mikey, can you ask your father to take a picture of us and the plants?

MIKEY
I'll ask but no guarantees.

Mikey leaves the greenhouse and walks into Joe's house. Joe is on the telephone with Maggie.

(CONTINUED)

JOE
Hang on a minute Maggie.

MIKEY
Hey Pops, Danny wants you to take his picture with your fabulous pot plants.

JOE
Shhhhhhhhhh! Maggie is on the line.

MIKEY
Sorry, Pops.

Mikey leaves the house and back into the greenhouse.

DANNY
Do you want to be in the picture Mikey?

MIKEY
Well sure, I think we should all be in the picture, Pops will be proud.

Back inside Joe s house, Joe ends the conversation with Maggie.

Long shot of Joe walking towards the greenhouse with his camera.

INT. MAGGIE GETS THE PICTURES - NIGHT

Establishing shot of Maggie driving up to Joe s house.

Joe and Maggie are sitting on the couch and Joe s camera is on the coffee table in front of them.

MAGGIE
Oh Joe, can you take a picture of me in my new dress?

JOE
Sure Maggie. Stand over there by the fireplace.

Joe grabs the camera and snaps about 6 flash photos of Maggie.

MAGGIE
Oh let me see, let me see!

(CONTINUED)

Joe picks up the camera and begins to plays back the pictures for Maggie. The telephone rings and Joe sits down the camera and goes into the kitchen to answer it. Meanwhile, Maggie has picked up the camera and looks at the pictures of her dress.

Joe returns from the kitchen sits down next to Maggie and they cuddle as Joe falls asleep. Maggie jostles Joe awake.

MAGGIE

Joe, I've got to run honey. I'll call you in the morning.

JOE

OK, night (says groggily)

Joe closes his eyes again and starts to drift off.

MAGGIE

Do you mind if I borrow your camera to download the pictures of my new dress.

JOE

ahhh hmmmmm, (sleepily)

Joe nods off to sleep as Maggie exits the front door clutching Joe's camera.

INT. JOE FINDS OUT ABOUT MAGGIE'S EMAIL - DAY

In the morning, Maggie is in her home office with Joe's camera. She hooks it up to her computer and brings up her email program. Her new dress is in the first picture.

MAGGIE

(talking to herself)

Oh heck, I'll send my friends all the pictures.

Shot of Maggie doing a few mouse clicks on her computer.

Maggie calls Joe on the telephone

JOE (ON THE PHONE)

Hello.

MAGGIE (ON THE PHONE)

Hi Joe. I borrowed your camera so I could email the pictures of my new dress to all my friends.

(CONTINUED)

Joe is extremely angry

JOE (ON THE PHONE)
You what! (yelling)

MAGGIE (ON THE PHONE)
I didn't think you would mind for
one night.

Joe's eyes get wide as he realizes the enormity of the
situation.

JOE (ON THE PHONE)
Which pictures and who did you
email them to? (yelling even
louder)

MAGGIE (ON THE PHONE)
Stop yelling at me, what's the
problem? You told me I could borrow
your camera last night!

JOE
Yea, when I was half asleep
(yelling less loud).

MAGGIE
Would you please calm down Joe.

Joe calms down a little and takes a deep breath.

JOE (ON THE PHONE)
OK, I'm sorry. Now which pictures
and who did you email them to?

MAGGIE (ON THE PHONE)
I emailed all the pictures on the
camera to my friends and our pastor
at church.

Joe sinks into his his chair slowly closing his eyes. He
tilts his head down and covers his eyes with his hand.

INT. JOE IS RELIEVED ABOUT THE PICTURES - NIGHT

Establishing long shot of Joe s house with Maggie's car
there.

Joe and Maggie are sitting on the couch watching television,
Joe is drinking a beer and Maggie is drinking a glass of
wine.

(CONTINUED)

Joe is nervously tapping his finger and trying to figure out a way to ask Maggie about the pictures.

JOE

So ahhhh, what did your friends say about the pictures Maggie?

MAGGIE

They all loved my dress and said that you were a good photographer. They also said your new greenhouse business looks successful and they wish you the best of luck with it.

Joe realizes nobody made out the pot plants and he breathes a sigh of relief and quickly invents something to tell Maggie that makes sense.

JOE

Wellllllll, we'll just have to give your friends our earliest vegetable plants out of the greenhouse. (half convincingly).

MAGGIE

They would love that and I know the pastor loves gardening.

JOE

It's a deal then. I'll get Danny on it tomorrow.

MAGGIE

Oh thank you! You know Joe, I've got to get going soon.

JOE

Oh Maggie, can't you spend the night?

MAGGIE

No, you know I have to work early in the morning. The last thing I want is my day to start off with you grumpy because we woke up at 5 AM.

JOE

I understand Maggie.

Scene fades as Maggie leaves Joe's place and gets in her car.

EXT. MAGGIE'S OTHER BOYFRIEND - NIGHT

Maggie drives her car leaving Joe s place.

Maggie smiles and drives her car through the hills with nice homes and lights in the distance.

Maggie pulls up into a driveway of a very nice house, goes up to the door and knocks.

FRANK, a tall, handsome, older man answers the door and Maggie quickly throws her arms around him. They embrace.

MAGGIE

Oh Frank, It's only been two days and I missed you so much.

FRANK

I feel the same way Maggie. I wish our schedules would align better. But each moment I do get to spend with you I value even more.

MAGGIE

I love you Frank.

FRANK

I love you too Maggie.

Frank and Maggie passionately kiss.

FRANK

Please come inside, it's cold out there.

Frank brings Maggie inside, takes her coat and they sit down on the couch in the living room.

MAGGIE

So how long is your wife going to be gone on business this time?

FRANK

About 2 weeks. She went to Asia to close an outsourcing deal. Relax Maggie, it's all good. She won't come home. Can I get you a cocktail?

MAGGIE

Frank, you know I rarely drink, are you trying to get me drunk and take advantage of me?

(CONTINUED)

FRANK
(chuckling)
Maybe I am, I'm making you a screw
driver.

MAGGIE
(giggling)
Oh alright, twist my arm

Frank makes the drinks and sits down with Maggie on the
couch.

FRANK
You know Maggie, we have been
seeing each other behind Joe s back
for quite some time now and--

MAGGIE
We've been seeing each other behind
your wife's back too Frank, so what
are you saying?

FRANK
I'm saying I would like us to be an
exclusive couple sweetie. I love
you and it just kills me to see you
drive off knowing you are going to
go and share a bed with Joe.

MAGGIE
I understand Frank but this is the
only thing I can do at the moment
and you know that. My reputation in
our small community means a lot to
me and I will not have a legacy of
ruining someone's marriage!

FRANK
You are not ruining my marriage
Maggie, it was ruined years ago. We
haven't shared a bed in decades.

MAGGIE
Like I said, my standing in the
community means a lot to me Frank,
I'm an elder in our church, I can't
do that. I'm sorry.

Frank looks down, takes a deep breath.

FRANK
(sadly)
I understand Maggie.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

Why don't we just enjoy our time together Frank while we have a chance.

Frank perks up.

FRANK

Good idea darlin'. Let's cuddle.

Maggie and Frank cuddle and kiss.

EXT. DANNY AND MIKEY MAKE OUT IN THE GREENHOUSE - DAY

Danny is busily working inside a greenhouse as Joe drives up and Danny waves to Joe.

DANNY

Hiya Joe

JOE

Hi Danny. Looks like you have things under control as always, good job!

DANNY

Thanks Joe. I'm proud of my little darlings.

JOE

Well, we need some new little darlings.

DANNY

Why on earth for Joe?

JOE

I'll talk to you later tonight about it.

DANNY

No problem.

JOE

Great! Where's Mikey?

DANNY

He went into town to pick up a part for the tractor.

(CONTINUED)

JOE

OK. I'll catch up with y'all later
this evening, I need a nap.

DANNY

No problem Joe. See ya' later.

Joe leaves the greenhouse and goes into his house. Danny continues working in the greenhouse.

(Video insert: "Later that day")

Shot of sunset with the greenhouse while Mikey drives up and parks his car as Danny comes out to greet him.

MIKEY

Heya Danny!

DANNY

Hi honey!

Mikey and Danny hug and then kiss.

DANNY

It was lonely working in the
greenhouse all by myself today.

MIKEY

I know, but I had to get the part
to the tractor.

Danny smiles.

DANNY

(with satire)

Oh, the life of a farmer.

Danny theatrically wipes his brow and stares up and closes his eyes with one arm up in the air.

Mikey applauds and Danny and Mikey erupt into laughter.

INT. VEGGIE PLANTS AS A COVER - NIGHT

Joe, Mikey, and Danny sit on the couch inside of Joe's house.

Joe and Mikey drink beers and Danny drinks wine.

JOE

Let's have a little business
meeting guys.

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY

OK Pops.

DANNY

No problem Joe.

JOE

We need a cover business and that business is going to be growing and selling vegetable starter plants.

DANNY

That's easily doable Joe.

MIKEY

I have total faith in Danny's gardening ability Pops.

JOE

OK. By the end of next week I want a bunch of veggie starter plants in two inch peat pots. This of course is in addition to the main crop.

DANNY

It's all good by me Joe.

JOE

Good. We need to move on this right away.

DANNY

You'll have your plants in abundance Joe.

MIKEY

You can count on Danny.

JOE

OK. Great. I'm counting on both of you for this. It could mean the end of our business or worse if we don't pull this off.

MIKEY

Don't worry one bit Pops. Consider it done.

DANNY

I'll order seeds right away and have them sent overnight. I'll have them tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)

JOE

Good. It sounds like you guys are all over it.

INT. MAGGIE COMES CLEAN ABOUT HER LOVER - NIGHT

NARRATOR

Since Joe was an early riser and Frank was a night owl, Maggie could easily synchronize her two timing ways between the two guys. But just as in life, all good things must come to an end and Joe was about to get a huge wake up call about his relationship with Maggie.

Joe and Maggie sit close to each other on the couch and watch television. Joe drinks a beer and Maggie drinks a sparkling water.

MAGGIE

Joe, I have something I have to admit to.

JOE

Oh no problem Maggie. What, you didn't change the toilet tissue roll. (giggling).

MAGGIE

No Joe, I'm serious. Would you please listen to me?

JOE

Sure thing Maggie. What's up girl?

MAGGIE

I don't know how to tell you, but I'm seeing somebody else besides you.

Joe's face gets beet red and he scowles.

JOE

(yelling)

I can't believe the words out of your mouth. Maggie, what did you say? What the hell is going on?

MAGGIE

I fell in love with another man Joe and we are going to be a couple.

(CONTINUED)

JOE
(loudly)
Maggie, you are talking non-sense.
You are my girlfriend and someday
possibly more, how can you do this?

MAGGIE
Joe, your promises of making our
relationship permanent never
materialized. I want a stable man
in my life, one that loves me and
will take care of me.

JOE
(snidely)
I could easily do that Maggie.

MAGGIE
You had your chance for several
years Joe and you showed your true
colors. We're finished.

Joe gets throws his beer across the room. Maggie quickly
gets up and heads for the door.

JOE
(yelling)
Maggie! Where are you going.

MAGGIE
(screaming)
Away from you.

Maggie runs out, slams the door, gets in her car and drives
off fast throwing up gravel as she fish tails out the gravel
driveway of Joe s place. She drives directly to Frank's
place and knocks on the door in tears as Frank answers the
door. They talk in the doorway.

MAGGIE
(sobbing)
Oh Frank , I just told Joe that we
were finished.

FRANK
Ahh Maggie.

Frank hugs Maggie closer and rocks her slowly.

MAGGIE
(crying)
I didn't think it would be so hard.

FRANK

Don't worry honey, things are going to be much better now.

MAGGIE

You make me feel so secure and loved Frank, thank you.

Maggie kisses Frank.

FRANK

Now come in and chill out with me tonight, we have some celebrating to do.

MAGGIE

OK.

Frank takes Maggie inside and then leads Maggie to his bedroom.

MAGGIE

Frank, would you get dressed up in your fire chief uniform. A man in a uniform just floats my boat.

JOE

Oh common Maggie, it's my day off. I have to wear that damn uniform almost every day. How about I get dressed up in my birthday suit?

Maggie giggles.

MAGGIE

That works too. Just turn out the lights first.

JOE

I'll be right back, nature calls.

Joe heads to the bathroom.

Maggie gets undressed, puts on her lingerie, and puts on some bright red lipstick.

Frank returns from the bathroom, disrobes, and they both get into bed together.

MAGGIE

I'm so happy with you Frank

(CONTINUED)

FRANK

You are a sweetheart Maggie. I love you dearly.

Maggie kisses Frank. As she hugs him she bumps into the pillow leaving a small lipstick stain.

EXT. JOE AND FRANK IN A CONFRONTATION - DAY

Danny and Mikey work in the greenhouse. Joe sits on the couch in his house watching soap operas. Frank drives up and gets out of his car.

DANNY

Somebody just drove up Mikey.

MIKEY

Hmmmm. I'll check 'em out.

DANNY

Good. We need to increase the security around this place.

MIKEY

You're right. Be right back.

Mikey leaves the greenhouse and confronts Frank.

MIKEY

Can I help you?

FRANK

Doesn't Joe Lyles live here?

MIKEY

Yes, what can I do for you.

FRANK

I was expecting a much older Joe.

MIKEY

Well, Joe is my father.

FRANK

Oh sorry. I just need to talk with Joe for a minute.

MIKEY

Sure. He's in the house. Just ring the bell.

(CONTINUED)

FRANK

Thanks.

Frank walks up to the house and rings the doorbell and Joe opens the door.

JOE

What can I do for you?

FRANK

My name is Frank Silva and I go to the same church as you do. I only live a couple of miles from you up in the canyon and I just thought I would introduce myself.

Frank reaches out his hand and Joe and Frank shake hands.

JOE

Nice to meet you Frank. Come on in.

Frank enters the doorway.

JOE

Have a seat.

Joe gestures at the couch and Frank sits down.

FRANK

I love your place out here, how many acres is it?

JOE

Oh, we have 45 acres, mostly in pasture land.

FRANK

Nice, I just have a 1/2 acre plot in the gated community up Rowan Canyon.

JOE

I would trade you in a heartbeat, running a ranch and farm is a bitch.

FRANK

I can imagine.

JOE

I barely have time to take a shower.

(CONTINUED)

FRANK

Well Joe, I would like to talk with you about Maggie.

JOE

What about Maggie.

FRANK

Maggie and I are an item.

Joe turns beet red and scowles.

JOE

(yelling)

What! You are the one Maggie has a thing for!

FRANK

Yes I am.

Joe stands up.

JOE

(screaming)

Get the hell out of my house before I break your jaw.

Frank quickly exits Joe's place and runs to his car. Frank drives off at high speed.

EXT. VERNER'S AUTO SHOP - DAY

Mikey drives a tractor into a parking lot in front of a small business. A sign over the business reads "VERNER'S AUTO REPAIR".

VERNER comes out of the shop and waves at Mikey.

MIKEY

(happy)

Heya Verner! How's things going with you.

VERNER

Things is good Mike, how about with you?

MIKEY

Great except for Pop's tractor's power takeoff unit threw a bearing. I got a used one from Leader Brothers Junkyard but it needs to

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY (cont'd)
get pressed in. Have you got 5
minutes?

VERNER
For you, no problem. How about ten
bucks and a quart of you old man's
'shine?

MIKEY
Well Pop's stopped makin' 'shine.
How about twenty bucks.

VERNER
Twenty bucks is fine. I can't
believe Joe would stop makin'
moonshine. Did he hit that stupid
lottery he always wastes his money
on?

MIKEY
Naaa. It's a long story, I'll have
to tell you about it when I have
some more time.

VERNER
No problem. Did you tell your
father about Danny yet?

MIKEY
I told him a part of it. I'm scared
to tell him the rest.

VERNER
I don't blame you. You two have
some big balls to do something like
this around these parts.

MIKEY
(laughing)
Actually, Danny is the brave one
with the big equipment in our
family.

VERNER
Well, when you two do go for it,
just watch you backs. You know how
some people are around here.

MIKEY
Yea, like my brother.

VERNER

ADAM used to be such a sweet kid
'till he got hooked up with those
skinheads.

MIKEY

I try not to think about that.

VERNER

I don't think Adam would ever hurt
you or Danny, but plenty of his
skinhead friends might. You two
won't be able to hide things like
you can now. Enough advice. Let's
press in that bearing.

EXT. THE ADOPTION NEWS - DAY

Danny works inside the greenhouse and Mikey works on the
tractor. Danny's cell phone rings.

JANET

Hi, this is JANET Corder with the
Blue Ridge Adoption Agency is this
Dan Thompson?

DANNY

Yes it is.

JANET

We've finished processing your
application for adoption and we'd
like you to come down to our office
tomorrow morning and review some
candidates. Would 10 AM tomorrow
morning work for you?

DANNY

(excited)

Oh my god! Absolutely. I'm so
excited!

JANET

We're excited for you too Dan. We
have 5 possible matches for you.

DANNY

(excited)

This is such great news I can
hardly believe it. I've wanted kids
for so long. I'll be there at 10 AM
sharp. Thank you so much Janet!

(CONTINUED)

JANET

You're welcome Dan. We'll see you
in the morning.

DANNY

Super. Have a great day, bye.

Danny puts his cell phone back in his pocket.

DANNY

(excited)

Oh my god! Whoo hoo

MIKEY

What is it?

Danny runs over to Mikey, throws his arms around him, lifts him in the air, spins them both around, and kisses him on the lips.

DANNY

I've been approved for the
adoption! I'm going to be a Mommy!

MIKEY

(laughs)

That's awesome! Can I go with you
to the agency?

DANNY

I think it's best to go slow with
all this and I should go alone to
start. You know how tricky being a
gay adoptive parent can be and I'm
not about to screw this up after
almost a year's worth of waiting.

MIKEY

I understand. How on earth are we
going to tell Pops. He's still
reeling over us being roommates.

DANNY

I don't care, we'll come up with
something.

EXT. THE SKINHEAD RALLY - DAY

Adam drives his truck and LEAH sits in the passenger seat.

(CONTINUED)

LEAH

So what happens at a skinhead rally?

ADAM

Our local chapter assembles in a park and we have a BBQ. Then we have several speeches about our efforts to promote the white race and get rid of the fags and jews. You'll see.

LEAH

That sounds way too radical to me.

ADAM

It's not radical, we are actually changing the world for the better.

LEAH

What's so better about a white only world and what about your gay brother?

ADAM

It's people like my brother that are ruining this world.

LEAH

Well Mike is sure not ruining your world, he's helping out your father.

ADAM

There's plenty of straight people that could help my father.

LEAH

Speaking of fathers, do you ever want to be one?

ADAM

(angry)

Hell no! The world is too screwed up to bring anymore people into it.

The truck pulls into the park's parking lot. Several people are already there. Two BBQs are going with smoke swirling out of them.

ADAM

(stern)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ADAM (cont'd)

Here we are Leah. Now just keep your mouth shut. I do all the talking you hear?

Leah nods. The park echoes with chants of "white power" and several people hold up signs reading "WHITE POWER".

EXT. VERNER MAKES A HOUSE CALL - DAY

Verner works inside his repair shop and the phone rings.

VERNER

Hello

JOE

Hey Verner, Joe Lyles here. My truck won't start. I tried to jump it but no luck. Can you come over and take a look at it.

VERNER

Not till late this afternoon Joe. Is the truck at your place?

JOE

Yea. It's parked next to my new greenhouse.

VERNER

Ok Joe. I'll be over there about five this afternoon.

JOE

Ok. See ya then, I need a nap anyway.

Verner pulls up and parks next to Joe's old Ford truck. Joe is not around so he open the the truck's hood and looks at the motor. He discovers that the air filter is clogged up. He removes the filter and tries to start the truck again. It starts right up. He goes up to Joe's front door and rings the bell. Joe answers.

VERNER

Hi Joe. Here's your problem

Verner shows Joe the air filter.

JOE

Is that all it was?

(CONTINUED)

VERNER

Yep.

JOE

So how much do I owe you?

VERNER

House calls are forty five dollars plus parts.

JOE

(yells)

Forty five bucks! That's a rip off. What's wrong with your kind of people?

VERNER

I tell ya what. I won't charge you for the new air filter.

JOE

(yells)

Screw that. Here's twenty bucks. Get off my property before I get my shotgun.

Verner takes the money and hurriedly runs to his truck. On the way to his truck, he passes by the open door of the greenhouse and peeks in. The marijuana plants are large and green. Verner's eyes get wide as he keeps running.

JOE

You con man!

Verner jumps in his truck and fishtails leaving Joe's place, gravel flying in his wake.

INT. SARAH DISCOVERS FRANKS AFFAIR - DAY

Sarah comes back from her business trip and sets down her suitcase on the messy bed. She straightens the sheet over the pillow and discovers red lipstick.

SARAH

(angry)

What the hell is lipstick doing on our pillow?

FRANK

Ah, I don't know.

(CONTINUED)

SARAH

I've suspected you've been having an affair for some time now Frank and this proves it.

FRANK

It doesn't prove anything Sarah. Maggie is just a friend of mine and she needed a nap.

SARAH

(angry)

Yea, just a friend. J.A.F. You got the last word wrong Frank.

FRANK

Why can't you be home more often then away Sarah. I miss the companionship.

SARAH

(angry)

Somebody has to make some good money to pay for this house and our lifestyle. Your salary as fire chief barely covers the taxes and insurance. As for companionship, you can go and keep the dog company in the guest room. I'll be back when I'm drunk.

Sarah storms out of the house and slams the door.

EXT. LEAH TELLS ADAM SHE'S PREGNANT - DAY

Adam and Leah get into Adam's truck after the skinhead rally.

LEAH

Remember when I asked you about becoming a father?

ADAM

Yea, what about it?

LEAH

You're going to be.

ADAM

(yells)

What?

(CONTINUED)

LEAH
I'm pregnant and it's yours.

ADAM
(yells)
No way! You said you were on the pill.

LEAH
Sometimes the pill doesn't work.

ADAM
(angry)
I can't believe this. You're lying to me

LEAH
It's real Adam, and I want to keep the baby.

ADAM
(angry)
No way. You're getting an abortion.

LEAH
That's not going to happen Adam. I'm having my baby with or without you.

ADAM
That's nuts, I'm taking you to an abortion clinic right now.

Adam stops a red light. Leah opens the truck door.

LEAH
No you're not. See ya later Daddy.

Leah jumps out of the the truck, slams the door, and Adam drives off squealing his tires.

EXT. DANNY QUILTS ON JOE - DAY

Danny works inside the greenhouse and Mikey drives up. Danny and Mikey hug.

DANNY
I need to talk with you Danny.
Let's go for a drive.

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY
Sure thing Danny.

They both jump in the Mikey's truck and drive off.

MIKEY
So what's up Danny?

DANNY
My meeting at the adoption agency
this morning went great! I've even
decided on a "candidate".

Danny puts two fingers of each hand in the air emulating
double quotes.

MIKEY
(excited)
Tell me more!

DANNY
His name is Rudy, his parents are
serious drug addicts and they put
him up for adoption just this past
February. He's in a foster home
right now and I'm going to meet him
this weekend. If all goes well,
Rudy will be part of our family
within two weeks!

MIKEY
That is just so precious. I so want
to go with you and meet him, but I
know, go slow, blah, blah blah.

DANNY
We have to be very careful at this
stage in the adoption process. One
glitch ends it.

MIKEY
Yea, careful is the way to go.

DANNY
There is something else to this I
haven't told you about.

MIKEY
What's that.

DANNY
I'm going to quit working for your
father.

MIKEY

Oh crap. Pops needs you. He'll fall on his face without you.

DANNY

Having a kid means more to me than a thousand greenhouses of pot. If I got busted it's goodbye Rudy.

MIKEY

I understand. But what a bombshell, especially to Pops.

DANNY

I'm sure your father can handle it. It's just a business and he's been selling 'shine for what, 40 years.?

MIKEY

Thereabouts, but it's second nature to him and this pot thing is a new venture.

DANNY

I can't help it. My entire world is going to revolve around our family and nothing is going to disturb it.

MIKEY

I'm torn Danny, but I support you and our future family. Maybe we can adopt a second one too.

DANNY

Remember we need to go slow. I can only have one baby at a time. (laughing).

MIKEY

You're right as usual. I love that name Rudy.

EXT. MIKEY PICKS UP LEAH - DAY

Leah walks down the street with tears streaming down her face. Mikey happens to drive by in his truck.

MIKEY

Hey Leah, need a lift?

(CONTINUED)

LEAH
(sobbing)
Sure

MIKEY
What's wrong Leah?

LEAH
I'm pregnant with your brother's
baby.

MIKEY
(surprised)
Wow! Really! Then why are you
crying, don't you want to keep it?

LEAH
(sobbing)
I do, but Adam wants me to get an
abortion. We broke up over it.

MIKEY
Oh Leah. I'm so sorry. What you
need is a good dose of advice from
Danny. He minored in psychology in
college. Wanna talk to him?

LEAH
(sniffling)
If you think it would help, sure.

MIKEY
I know it would. Let's go talk to
him right now.

They drive to Mikey and Danny's house and go inside. Danny
is in the kitchen making cookies.

INT. LEAH MEETS SEAN - DAY

MIKEY
(laughing)
Hi honey, I'm home. And I brought a
visitor.

DANNY
(happy)
Hi Mikey.

MIKEY
Danny, I don't think you ever met
my brother's girlfriend...Ah, I
mean ex-girlfriend. This is Leah.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

Nice to meet you Leah. Have a seat.
Can I get you a glass of ice tea?

LEAH

That would be great.

DANNY

Anything for you Mikey?

MIKEY

No thanks but Leah would like some
advice from you.

DANNY

No problem. I'll be right back with
the iced tea.

Danny fetches Leah's ice tea from the kitchen and hands it
to Leah.

DANNY

So what's up Leah?

LEAH

I'm pregnant and the father doesn't
want to keep the baby.

DANNY

Who is the father.

LEAH

Mikey's brother Adam.

DANNY

(scowling)

Oh, that kind of father. Do you
want to keep the baby?

LEAH

Absolutely! But I want my baby to
have a good father too.

DANNY

That's good thinking Leah.

A buzzer in the kitchen goes off.

DANNY

My cookies are done, give me a
couple of minutes and we'll talk
some more Leah.

Danny goes into the kitchen.

(CONTINUED)

LEAH

You and Danny have a nice place here.

MIKEY

Thank you. Danny is the domestic one. We're actually expecting a baby like you are.

LEAH

Huh?

MIKEY

Danny and I are going to adopt a baby.

LEAH

Really?

MIKEY

You can talk more to Danny about it.

LEAH

I will. I'm surprised but happy for you guys.

Danny returns from the kitchen with a plate full of cookies.

DANNY

How about some chocolate chip cookies fresh out of the oven?

MIKEY

Love one!

LEAH

Me too!

DANNY

So listen Leah. If you want to keep the baby then by all means keep it. Someone will come along in your life that shares your dreams of your future family.

LEAH

Yea, but meeting people up here in the rural mountains is hard.

DANNY

I know it is Leah. But think of the mountains as a filter keeping most of the bad folks on the flat land.

(CONTINUED)

LEAH

That's a good way to look at it.

The doorbell rings and Danny answers it.

DANNY

Heya SEAN!

Danny and Sean hug.

SEAN

Hey bro, hows things?

DANNY

Come on in, my cookies just came out of the oven.

SEAN

Perfect, I love your cookies.

DANNY

Sean, this is Leah, a friend of Mikey's brother.

Sean stares at Leah.

SEAN

Nice to meet you Leah.

LEAH

Same to you Sean.

Sean and Leah lock eyes smiling at each other for 5 seconds

DANNY

I bet you came to pick up your cookies Sean.

SEAN

I did. I love your cookies and they smell wonderful.

Danny fetches a plate full of cookies from the kitchen and returns and hands the plate to Sean.

Sean and Leah stare at each other again while smiling and finally Sean looks at Danny and takes the cookies.

DANNY

Sean, can you stay and visit for a while.

SEAN

Well, I was on my way to the gym.

Sean looks at Leah again.

SEAN

But with such a pretty girl in the room, how could I leave.

Leah looks down, pushes her hair behind her ears and looks back at Sean.

LEAH

Ah, thanks Sean.

SEAN

Are you single Leah?

INT. FRANK DUMPS MAGGIE - NIGHT

Frank sits in his living room and makes a phone call.

MAGGIE

Hello

FRANK

Hi Maggie, it's Frank

MAGGIE

(happy)

Hi Frank!

FRANK

I have some bad news for you.

MAGGIE

What's is it?

FRANK

The other night when you were here, you got some of your lipstick on one of the pillows. Sarah found it and now she's furious.

MAGGIE

I'm sorry Frank, I didn't mean you any trouble.

FRANK

I may ending up getting a divorce over this Maggie.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

You've always told me you were
unhappily married anyway.

FRANK

Unhappily married yes, but not
unhappily divorced. Sarah will get
a hot lawyer and take everything.
The house, the investments, even
the dog.

MAGGIE

So what Frank, we could be together
and not have to hide anymore.

FRANK

And I would be poor on my crappy
salary.

MAGGIE

You promised me we would be
together someday.

FRANK

I can't Maggie. I can't even see
you anymore.

Maggie starts crying uncontrollably

FRANK

Maggie, get a hold of yourself.

MAGGIE

(crying and yelling)
Why should I. You're a jerk Frank.

Maggie slams the phone down in Frank's ear.

Frank looks at the phone, takes a deep breath and exhales
slowly.

Maggie calms down a little and makes a phone call.

JOE

Hello

MAGGIE

Hi Joe. Can I come and see you?

JOE

I thought we were through? What's
wrong?

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

Nothing, just feeling a little down
and lonely that's all.

JOE

Join the club.

MAGGIE

I'll be over in about a half an
hour.

JOE

Ok, I'll see you then. Bye

MAGGIE

Bye.

Maggie drives her car and pulls up to Joe's house. She parks
her car and knocks and goes inside.

Joe and Maggie sit on the couch.

MAGGIE

I've been thinking about my life
and I want to make up with you. I
have no kids, no husband,
biological clock ticking and---

JOE

Don't even go there Maggie

MAGGIE

I want to go there Joe.

JOE

I still haven't recovered from my
wife's death. I'm not going to take
another risk like that, especially
now.

MAGGIE

But life is risk everyday just to
wake up in the morning.

JOE

Yea. Less of a risk waking up
alone. I don't want to talk about
this anymore. You know where I
stand. I'm tired and I want to be
alone (loudly).

Maggie's eyes fill with tears.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

All right Joe.

Maggie tries to kiss Joe and he dodges the kiss.

JOE

Good night Maggie.

Maggie leaves the house, gets in her car, and drives off.

EXT. THE FIRE AT THE GREENHOUSE - DAY

A small fire breaks out in the greenhouse. There is a distant sound of sirens getting closer. Joe comes running out of his house with a fire extinguisher. He finishes putting out the fire just as Frank drives up. Frank is wearing his fire chief uniform.

FRANK

Looks like you put out the fire,
you need a job? (laughing).

JOE

Joe sits down fire extinguisher.

JOE

(angry)

You again, get the hell off my
property.

FRANK

It looks like the fire started from
an electrical short in the fan. Is
this a new installation?

JOE

It is. I just put it myself. I'm no
electrician but---

FRANK

Obviousl. It's not grounded and
that's what caused the fire.

JOE

Crap

FRANK

What are you growing in the
greenhouse?

Frank looks over Joe's shoulder through the open door and
sees the pot plants.

(CONTINUED)

Joe quickly closes the door.

JOE
Just some vegetables.

FRANK
Next time you install anything
electrical, you might want to hire
an electrician.

Frank gets on his radio.

FRANK
Dispatch, this is Silva. The fire
was small and put out before I
arrived. I'm returning to the
station.

DISPATCH
10-4 chief.

Frank leaves and Joe goes inside. The lights go off and Joe goes to bed. The police knock on the door a few minutes later.

COP
Are you Joe Lyles?

JOE
Yes (nervously)

COP
You're under arrest for
manufacturing marijuana.

Joe gets handcuffed and gets lead out of the house.

EXT. BURGLARY AT VERNERS REPAIR SHOP - NIGHT

Adam's truck is in the back of Verner's Repair Shop idling with the lights off. Adam uses a crowbar trying to break a padlock at the rear, unlit entrance. The lock finally breaks and Adam carefully creeps inside the shop.

VERNER
(yells)
Hold it right there! Adam knocks
over some buckets and tools while
running for the rear exit. A
gunshot echoes.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM
(painful scream)
Owwwww

Adam falls on the floor of the shop as Verner turns all the lights on.

VERNER
Adam. I can't believe you would do this. Don't move or I'll shoot you again. I'm calling 911.

Verner dials the phone while holding the gun on Adam.

VERNER
(excited)
I need the police and an ambulance at 6525 Canyon River Road at Verner's Auto Shop. I just shot a burglar.

911 OPERATOR
Stay on the line with me. What is your name?

VERNER
Verner Jones. I own the shop

911 OPERATOR
Ok Verner. Help is on the way.

VERNER
Ok. No problem.

An ambulance and police car pull up. The paramedics start working on Adam. A cop disarms Verner and starts interviewing him while taking notes. Adam is hauled off on a stretcher.

COP
...And that's when you shot him?

VERNER
Right. Is he going to be alright, I know him.

COP
The paramedic said he'll probably make it but he'll never walk the same again. The bullet blew his knee apart.

(CONTINUED)

VERNER
Lord have mercy.

INT. DANNY AND MIKEY'S CIVIL UNION - DAY

Display in video ("4 months later")

Danny and Mikey stand at an alter inside a church. Leah stands beside Mikey and Sean stands beside Danny. Leah is showing very pregnant and holds Rudy's hand.

PREACHER
I now pronounce you together in
civil union.

Danny and Mikey kiss then Danny picks up Rudy and Mikey hugs them both.

INT. DANNY AND MIKEY'S RECEPTION - DAY

Sean, Leah, Verner, and Mikey hold champagne glasses in Danny's and Mikey's kitchen. Danny fills all the glasses and Sean raises his for a toast.

SEAN
Here's to happy unions and babies.

They all raise their glasses.

DANNY, MIKE, VERNER, LEAH
Cheers!

They all sip some champagne.

SEAN
I have one more toast. Leah and I
are getting married! Here's to more
unions and babies.

VERNER
(surprized)
Congratulations you guys. Cheers.

DANNY
(excited)
That's fantastic Leah! I knew a
sweet girl like you would get a
nice guy someday.

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY

Wow! What a day. Cheers all around.

They all sip some more champagne.

DANNY

This calls for another bottle of champagne!

Danny fetches another bottle from the refrigerator and fills everyone's glasses.

VERNER

Thanks Danny. I've got some news myself. I sold my repair shop and I'm retiring to a little farm just outside of town. Don't worry, I won't be growing any pot.

MIKEY

That's great Verner!

SEAN

Way to go Verner!

LEAH

Sweet deal Verner.

DANNY

Congrats Verner. I knew I should have bought more champagne.

Everyone laughs and drinks more champagne as scene fades.

Epilogue with text on screen

Sarah and Frank divorced and Frank moved to a tiny apartment outside of town.

Maggie lost her standing in the community and remains unmarried and childless.

Joe keeps the family portrait of Danny, Mikey, and Rudy hidden in cell 416 of the Appalachian Federal Prison.

Sean and Leah are happily married with Leah expecting soon.

Mikey and Danny started a successful gay adoption internet website and are living in bliss with their son Rudy.