

Wheelan MOTORS

Just because it's a small town
doesn't mean you can't make big mistakes.

"Pilot"

Written by

Brooks Wheelan & Isaac Rentz

COLD OPEN

INT. CHICAGO APARTMENT - DAY

JENNY VALVINO enters. With her head buried in her phone, she makes her way past the living room, where we catch a quick glimpse of A MAN WRAPPED IN A GIANT YELLOW PYTHON and-- what the hell? She backpedals and stares at...

BROOKS WHEELAN, with an eight foot long, yellow, African rock python twisted around his stiff, nervous frame.

BROOKS
It's way worse than it looks.

JENNY VALVINO
Brooks? What the--

BROOKS
Ah-ah. Can't get too excited. No sudden movements. Just be chill.

JENNY VALVINO
("chill")
K. 'Sup with the snake, Brooks?

BROOKS
Funny you'd ask. I wrote a speech but it's in my pocket which I can't currently get to, so I'll just do it from memory.
(clears throat)
Jenny, you know my biggest fear has always been snakes, and it turns out that fear is very warranted. But after we broke up, I realized that being without you is scarier than any snake could ever--
OhsweetJesus he's moving.

The snake tightens around him.

JENNY VALVINO
What do I do?!

BROOKS
(whispering)
Stop being loud!

The snake stops moving.

JENNY VALVINO
(whispering)
Sorry. Oh my god, this is really sweet. I can't believe you'd do this for me.

BROOKS
(whispering)
It's romantic, right?

JENNY VALVINO
(whispering)
So romantic. It's just... I wish
you had done this earlier.

A burly **MAN** in his 40's enters.

MAN
Brooks? What the hell-

BROOKS
Shhhhh. Not so loud.

JENNY VALVINO
Shhhhh. Quiet.

MAN
(Whispering)
Sorry. It's just... Brooks, I didn't
want you to find out like this.

BEAT

BROOKS
Wait... YOU'RE BANGING MY BOSS!?

Brooks tries to waddle over to his boss. The movement causes
the snake to tighten even more, forcing Brooks to the ground.

BROOKS (CONT'D)
I'll kill... you... can't
breathe... I'll kill you... but
first, god save me...

As Brooks' eyes bulge and he turns blue, we CUT TO:

EXT. CHICAGO MENTAL HOSPITAL - DAY

CHYRON: THREE DAYS LATER

Brooks holds a duffle bag as a brand new Chrysler 300 pulls
up. Brooks gets in as **JIM WHEELAN** glares at him.

JIM
You have any idea what traffic was like?

BROOKS
Good to see you too, Dad.

INT. JIM'S SILVER CHRYSLER 300 - LATER

Jim's head is on a swivel until they pass a sign that reads
"The People of Iowa Welcome You."

JIM
Ok, we're safe.

Jim cracks open a beer.

JIM (CONT'D)

Hope you got whatever the hell that was out of your system, because I'm not rescuing your ass again.

BROOKS

You didn't rescue my ass.

JIM

I'm pretty sure I just picked you up from a mental hospital.

BROOKS

Oh my god, you're still talking about that?

JIM

It just happened!

BROOKS

It's not my fault they don't know where to take you if you break into someone's house with a snake.

JIM

Congrats on getting fired for taking a swing at your boss as well. A real Brooksy 1-2. Always thinking you're better than your family and now look at you.

A loud BEEP goes off. Jim hands Brooks the breathalyzer hose that's hooked up to his ignition from a previous DUI.

JIM (CONT'D)

Gonna need you to blow in this.

Brooks blows until the beeping stops.

BROOKS

You can't talk down to me while you continue to drink and drive?

JIM

This isn't drinking and driving. Everyone knows you can't get a DUI on light beer. What is this even? 4.2%?

Jim speeds past a highway patrol car. It flashes it's lights.

BROOKS

Very cool. I wonder if this guy knows about the "light beer" rule?

JIM

Relax. I recently discovered a loophole.

As Jim pulls over, he grabs a manilla envelope from the glove box, takes a long drink, slides the can into the package, then seals it.

JIM (CONT'D)
It's a federal offense for anyone, police included, to open someone else's mail.
The key is the stamp. Makes it official.
Take notes, class is in session.

As Jim starts to roll down the window, we CUT TO...

INT. WHEELAN MOTORS - LATER

Brooks walks into a small town dealership that hasn't changed since the 1970s. **CHRIS WHEELAN** rushes out of her office and swallows him up in a big hug.

CHRIS
There he is! My baby is back! Finally,
the whole family is together again! I
made your fave, scotcheroos.

BROOKS
Rad. Thanks!

Brooks grabs a scotcheroo and takes a bite.

CHRIS
Wait, Where's your father?

BROOKS
(mouth full)
Oh, yeah. Dad's in jail.

OPENING CREDITS

MONTAGE: Photos of Wheelan Motors over the years, showing the dealership being handed down from Wheelan to Wheelan. The credits end on a grainy 1991 local car commercial. Jim and Chris stand in front of Wheelan Motors with their three boys, **YOUNG TODD**, **YOUNG MICHAEL**, and **YOUNG BROOKS**.

JIM
Wheelan Motors. We're not just a
local business...

THE WHEELANS
We're a LOCAL FAMILY!

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT 1EXT. WHEELAN MOTORS LOT - DAY

CHYRON: ONE MONTH LATER

FREDDIE AMUNDSEN, an elderly local, examines a new Jeep Wagoneer as Brooks tries to show him photos on his phone.

BROOKS

Here's when I met Jenny at Lollapalooza.
Our life in Chicago was so boss.

(to himself)

I don't belong here.

FREDDIE ADMUNSON

So, is this 3.5 liter EcoBoost
engine as beefed up as they say?

BROOKS

(staring at his phone)

I don't know man. I'm new.

FREDDIE ADMUNSON

Ok... Is there someone who might know?

BROOKS

You could talk to my brothers?

He motions across the lot to **TODD** and **MICHAEL**. They're throwing rocks at an inflatable tube man. Jim eggs them on.

MICHAEL

Eat it, tube bitch!

JIM

Nice, Michael. Todd, you gonna let
your baby brother win?

TODD

Pfff. Anyone can hit it. But can
you throw a rock through it!?

Todd misses and the rock smashes through the window of a new mini-van. A customer sitting inside SCREAMS.

JIM

Shut it down.

Jim sees Freddie Admunson walk away from Brooks and the potential sale. He jogs over. Todd and Michael follow.

JIM (CONT'D)

Don't take it too hard. That's Freddie
Admunson. Legendary tire-kicker. He's been
"buying that car tomorrow" for years. Even
I can't close that sale.

BROOKS

He left?

JIM

Come on, where's that Wheelan gene?
Selling is in our blood. You've been here
a month and haven't moved a single unit.

BROOKS

Because I don't even want to frickin'
sell cars. This is just a pitstop until
I figure out my next move.

TODD

That'll be a tough choice. So many
great cities you haven't failed in yet.

JIM

Knock it off.

TODD

Brooks started it by thinking he
was better than us and leaving.

MICHAEL

And he's not. He's just as dumb.

TODD

Just as dumb as you.

Todd shoves Michael. Michael throat chops Todd. Todd goes to
his knees.

TODD (CONT'D)

(gurgling)

We said no karate at work!

Jim leads Brooks to a bustling FIREWORKS TENT on the edge of
the lot.

JIM

Look, if you don't want to sell
cars, then I gotta put you to work
in the fireworks tent.

BROOKS

It's truly insane that one of your
side hustles is actually making money.

JIM

Hey, the "full contact" haunted
clown barn turned a profit.

BROOKS

Sure, until the lawsuits.

JIM

Should've done a background check on Tinkles.
Either way, I know my new guys are clean.

INT. FIREWORKS TENT - DAY - CONTINUOUS

They enter the tent, which is overflowing with firecrackers. It's unbearably hot. The "new guys" are Todd's children:

LINCOLN (12), **LANDON** (10), and **LAYTON** (6).

JIM

How we doing, boys?

LINCOLN

It's hotter than the devil's asshole, Jim. We need a damn AC unit.

JIM

Hey, let's keep it professional. It's Mr. Grandpa at work. And an AC unit would cut into the profits. So, no.

Brooks spots his childhood best friend, **STEVEN RIES**, pushing a cart filled with fireworks.

BROOKS

Whoa, Ries, we taking out a federal building?

RIES

B-Dubz! Nope, gonna outdo the Linn County fireworks show this year. Bastards cut the budget to give the teachers a raise. You hate to see it.

BROOKS

Well, it's good to see you blowing through your dead dad's money.

RIES

It's what he would have wanted.

Layton, the youngest, drags a huge rocket over to Jim.

LAYTON

Mr. Grandpa, can I have this one?

JIM

Are you nuts?

BROOKS

Yeah, that's pretty dangerous.

JIM

No, it's expensive. That's a top shelf Boom Boy. Grab something from the sale bin. And what do we say if your mom catches you with it?

LAYTON

I stole it.

JIM (CONT'D)

I stole it. Yes. Good.

INT. WHEELAN MOTORS SHOWROOM - LATER

Brooks, Todd, **DOUG T**, a jovial salesman, **TRISH**, the dealership's intimidating top seller, and **STACY T**, Doug T's granddaughter and receptionist, are gathered.

JIM
Morning meeting, everyone. Todd, you
wanna take the reigns?

TODD
(blown away)
Oh wow, yes sir. Ok everyone, ummm--
as Bret "The Hitman" Hart once said--

JIM
He thinks I'm serious!? Ha! Sorry bud,
you ain't ready. Heard your kids locked
you in the bathroom for a full day when I
was on my sabbatical.

BROOKS
He means when he was in jail.

JIM
Oh my god, you're still talking about that?

Brooks' phone buzzes. It's "JENNY." His eyes go wide as he
quickly scurries out of the meeting to take it.

JIM (CONT'D)
Alright everyone, good news. It's the last
day of the month and we already hit our
sales quota. So everyone who sold a car gets
a \$2,000 bonus.

TRISH
Hell yeah. That's another purebred
greyhound for the track.

DOUG T
I'm gonna get my whole family made into
bobble heads.

EXT. WHEELAN MOTORS LOT - SAME TIME

Brooks answers the Facetime on his phone.

BROOKS
Hey! What's up?

JENNY VALVINO
Don't get too excited, but I'm driving
through Manchester next week--

A **CUSTOMER** approaches Brooks.

CUSTOMER #1
Do you have any used Durangos in stock?

Brooks tries to brush him off.

JENNY VALVINO
I can bring the stuff you left at my apartment.

BROOKS
Yeah, totally. Over dinner?

CUSTOMER #1
Your website said you had used Durangos.

BROOKS
(covers phone, whisper yells)
Buddy, get away from me.

JENNY VALVINO
Um, sure. Whatever works.

BROOKS
Incredible. Next week-

The customer shoves his phone in Brooks' face.

CUSTOMER #1
Yeah, see right here. In stock.

Brooks grabs the customer's phone and HURLS it across the lot.

BROOKS
Dinner. You and me. Sounds great!

JENNY VALVINO
It's just to get your things. Please
don't get the wrong impression.

BROOKS
Of course not. It's a date!

Brooks hangs up and bear hugs the customer.

INT. WHEELAN MOTORS SHOWROOM - CONTINUOUS

Brooks takes a seat. No one even noticed he was gone.

JIM
...Let's talk about July promotions.

Laying behind the popcorn machine, Michael pipes up.

MICHAEL
We should do Wing Wednesday.

JIM
Michael, for the millionth time-
we're not doing Wing Wednesday.

MICHAEL
(slowly standing up)
It works for Buffalo Wild Wings. Just try going
on a Wednesday. You're not getting a booth.

DOUG T
Yeah, but that's a wing restaurant.

MICHAEL
Exactly. Imagine what it would do
for a car dealership.

TODD
Excuse me? This is a new car sales
meeting. For new car salespeople. Go back
to the used lot, Used Mikey.

JIM
Ooooh, gonna take that, Used Mikey?

Michael throws popcorn on the ground and stomps on it.

MICHAEL
This is junk! I hate the used lot! What, you
spill chili in two new cars and that's it!?
What happened to three strikes!?

Michael storms outside. Through the window, everyone watches
as he marches over to Todd's Mustang, stares Todd down, and
slaps it.

TODD
(screaming)
Ahhhhhhhhh!

JIM
Can't believe you'd let him
disrespect your 'Stang like that...

Todd sprints outside, looks into Michael's eyes, then slaps
Michael's Bronco.

MICHAEL
(screaming)
Ahhhhhhhhh!

The brothers keep screaming as Michael hammers Todd's car
with his knees while Todd mule-kicks Michael's door.

STACY T
Should we stop them?

JIM
Sadly, there's not much we can do when
they get themselves worked up like this.
(yelling out the door)
Uh oh, Mikey, Todd's got ya.

Michael picks up a brick.

JIM (CONT'D)
Don't love that.

EXT. WHEELAN MOTORS LOT - LATER

Chris Wheelan pulls into the dealership in her extremely lifted Dodge RAM. She sees the entire staff watching as Michael and Todd throw unopened cans of soda at each other's now destroyed cars. She climbs out.

CHRIS
I can't pop into the casino for one hour without coming back to this?!

Jim flicks his cigarette at Todd.

JIM
Take this.

CHRIS
Jim, were you just smoking?

JIM
Todd was. Gotta go check the fireworks tent.

BROOKS
Mom, can we talk real quick?

INT. CHRIS WHEELAN'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Chris' office is overflowing with family photos. She logs onto her computer as Brooks takes a seat.

CHRIS
How's my baby boy doing?

BROOKS
Really great, Mom. Like, incredible.

CHRIS
I always say, the Wheelans are at their best when they're together. I knew you'd thrive here.

BROOKS
What? I'm not thriving, I'm terrible at this and I hate it here. I'm meeting Jenny next week to work things out.

CHRIS
We don't say that name in this office.

BROOKS
I want to surprise her with tickets to the concert where we met. It'll fix everything. I need to borrow some money--

CHRIS
I'm not giving you money for that floozy. Now, if it was to get back with Angie...

Chris points to a framed 2003 prom photo of Brooks and Angie, his high school girlfriend.

BROOKS
Mom, come on. You know Angie's been married for like, a decade.

CHRIS
Sure, but no kids? Can't be that serious.

Suddenly, the three grandchildren burst in.

LANDON
Mrs. Grandma! Mr. Grandpa is acting funny.

CHRIS
Funny like how?

Layton falls on the floor and impersonates Jim.

LAYTON
"Help... help... stop laughing..."

EXT. WHEELAN MOTORS LOT - LATER

Everyone watches as Jim is loaded into an ambulance.

JIM
Is it any cheaper if I ride up front?

CHRIS
Be careful with him!

EMT
Relax ma'am. It was just a mild heat stroke. He's going to be fine.

CHRIS
Oh thank gosh.

DOUG T
That's great news.

There's an awkward beat as it takes the brothers a moment too long to be excited that Jim isn't going to die.

BROOKS/MICHAEL/TODD
That's good./Uh, yeah./Awesome...

EMT
There's room if anyone wants to ride with him to the hospital.

Chris climbs in. Jim makes eye contact with each of his sons. After another awkward moment, Michael slowly closes the ambulance door. The staff watches as it drives away.

TODD
Father has fallen. All hail Todd, the boy king.

MICHAEL

Looks like it's a Wing Wednesday
after all...

TRISH

Thank God we got the bonus before
Jim left.

BROOKS

Wait, what bonus?

DOUG T

Everyone who sold a car this month
gets \$2,000.

BROOKS

Whoa, that's two Lollapalooza tickets.

TRISH

Yeah, but you didn't sell a car.

BROOKS

Not yet. Month's not over until the end
of the day.

DOUG T

Wait, what's Loller-a-looza?

BROOKS

It's where love happens Doug T. Love.
Time to sell a stupid car.

END OF ACT 1

ACT 2

INT. WHEELAN MOTORS BREAK ROOM - DAY

Brooks approaches Doug T and Trish as they drink coffee.

BROOKS

Ok guys, what's the secret?

DOUG T

If you pee on your hands they grow real big. I can palm a basketball.

BROOKS

What? No, how do you guys sell so many cars? I gotta sell one today to get this bonus. I should be able to figure it out. I was pretty much an architect.

TRISH

You gave architecture boat tours.

BROOKS

Yes, but with a degree in finance, Trish.

DOUG T

First of all, don't talk about being smart and stuff. Customers need to think they have the upper hand. That's why I always keep my fly open.

Doug T shows everyone his wide open zipper.

DOUG T (CONT'D)

People like to buy from a regular joe. Someone they'd have a beer with.

TRISH

Wrong. Look, I'm only telling you this because we live in a white, male-dominated society of nepotism, and someday, no matter how unfair, you will probably be my boss.

BROOKS

Sadly accurate.

DOUG T

She's got a point.

TRISH

The key is intimidation. Customers should fear you. And forget window shoppers. I never let anyone tickle my balls if they're not gonna suck me.

BROOKS

Good lord.

DOUG T

Yikesy Mikesy.

DOUG T (CONT'D)

Maybe try being friends with the customer first.

TRISH

And when that doesn't work, grow a pair, and actually sell a car.

INT. TODD'S OFFICE - LATER

Todd Facetimes with his wife, **SHERRI**.

TODD

Sherri, great news. Dad's in the hospital.

SHERRI

Incredible. So that means-

TODD

Yeah, your little muffin man's in charge.

SHERRI

One more chance to show Jim it's time to retire. You got this. You're the king of the jungle baby. Lemme hear daddy roar.

TODD

(growling softly)

Rrrrr.

SHERRI

Is that the roar of a man about to take the throne? Come on, Daddy.

TODD

(louder)

ROAAAAR!

SHERRI

More! More! More!

Todd stands up, tears his shirt open and ROARS. Stacy T pokes her head in.

STACY T

Sorry to interrupt... whatever this is, but the Dodge Challenger needs to be moved from the showroom to the lot. Your dad usually does that stuff.

TODD

I must take leave, Sherri. Heavy is the head that wears the crown.

Todd struts through the showroom to the Challenger. He freezes when he sees it's a manual transmission. He trembles.

TODD (CONT'D)

Oh God no...

INT. WHEELAN MOTORS SHOWROOM - CONTINUOUS

Michael swaggers in with a carry out bag of a hundred wings from Wing Street. He arranges them into a big gross mountain on a folding table in the showroom. Doug T walks up.

DOUG T
Holy Mount Delicious. Don't mind if I do.

He reaches for one, but Michael swats his hand.

MICHAEL
Customers only.

A customer walks by. Michael holds up a flat wing.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Wing while you shop?

CUSTOMER #2
Gross. No.

MICHAEL
Roger that. He hates the flats.
Must be more of a drum man.
(holds up a drumstick)
Here we are, Travis Barker.

The customer walks away. Michael is so confused. Who the heck wouldn't want a wing? They smell so good. Looking around to make sure no one's watching, he samples one.

INT. DODGE CHALLENGER - CONTINUOUS

Todd is still frozen behind the wheel. Stacy T taps the window.

STACY T
Mr. Wheelan? Everything ok?

TODD
Yes, obviously, Stacy T. I'm definitely
capable of driving this car.

STACY T
Ok. Can you not drive stick?

TODD
(crumblng)
My dad tried to teach me, but I just couldn't handle the pressure. He was yelling so much that I broke the transmission and it made us all late to my first communion.

STACY T
That is, like, so tragic. You know, my dad sucks too. Maybe I can help?

TODD
You drive stick?

STACY T
No, but there's nothing you can't learn on
YouTube. That's where I found the truth.

Stacy T points to a "QAnon" pin on her coat.

INT. TINY HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Jim lays in a bare bones hospital room. Chris sits on a metal
folding chair.

CHRIS
They've got us in a prison cell.

JIM
Chris, this is fine. A better room would
make our premiums go up.

CHRIS
Stop being so cheap. It's what got you
here. If you'd sprung for an AC unit
you wouldn't have had heat stroke.

JIM
I'm not that cheap.

Chris points out the window.

CHRIS
Really. You haven't paid for a new
billboard in twenty years...

REVEAL OUTSIDE: A faded billboard of Jim dressed as Uncle Sam
flanked by the Twin Towers with the caption "WHEELAN MOTORS
SUPPORTS THE TROOPS. 1% OF ALL PROFITS GO TO FINDING OSAMA
BIN LADEN."

JIM
It worked didn't it?

CHRIS
Just once it'd be nice to enjoy a
little first class treatment.

JIM
What about our vacation in Peoria?

CHRIS
You're counting the muffler distributor
convention as a vacation? No way. I
work hard. I deserve more. I'm getting
us a better room. Act paralyzed.

What? JIM Nurse! CHRIS (CONT'D)

A **NURSE** rushes in. Jim goes completely stiff.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
My husband's stroke has gotten worse!

NURSE
I thought he had a heat stroke?

CHRIS
Clearly it's snowballed. Please save him! He's my rock. My Mighty Mouse.

NURSE
Ok, we'll need to get him to the ICU.

CHRIS
(feigning surprise)
Oh, the newly renovated ICU? If you insist... Jimmy, blink twice if you'd like a room with a flat screen.

Jim blinks twice as the nurse wheels him away.

EXT. WHEELAN MOTORS - LATER

Brooks is trying Doug T's "friendly" approach with **RANDY**, a local who's checking out a new truck.

BROOKS
Just look how lifted this bad boy is.
Hopefully the corn'll be that high by the Fourth of July.

RANDY
That'd be a dream. Mind if I toss in a dip?

BROOKS
Only if I can pack a lipper too.

Randy passes a SKOAL tin to Brooks, who puts in a huge dip.

RANDY
This pup looks real nice.

BROOKS
(gagging)
Sure does. Let's head to my office across the street and talk numbers.

As they head off the lot, Brooks lets Randy get a little bit ahead, then THROWS UP.

INT. WHEELAN MOTORS SHOWROOM CHALLENGER - DAY

Todd and Stacy T listen as a YouTube video plays.

YOUTUBE INSTRUCTOR (O.S.)
...now gently release the clutch.

TODD
(screaming)
I'm going to smash into the freakin'
popcorn machine! I can't do this!

STACY T
Yes you can. I believe in you.

REVEAL: The humdrum showroom. The only sound comes from Todd screaming inside the car as it inches forward.

INT. BEAVERS BAR - DAY

Brooks and Randy enter Beavers, Manchester's only bar. Carpeted floors, dollar drafts, and a busted pool table.

RANDY
I thought we were going to your office?

BROOKS
This is my office. That's my desk.
(nods at a booth)
That's my computer.
(nods at pinball machine)
And the bartender is-- ...Angie?

ANGIE
B-Dubz! Heard you were back.

BROOKS
Uh, yeah. You work here now?

ANGIE
Sure do. Banking some cash while proving the yearbook wrong for voting me "Most Likely to Succeed." I heard you tried to commit suicide with a snake or something?

BROOKS
Don't love that that's floating around. I'm just back for a bit. I mean this town-
(off Randy's look)
Is the best! And it's full of great guys like Randy. Uh, two Busch Light's please.

RANDY
It's 11:15 in the morning.

BROOKS
Rand-Man, it's 11:30 somewhere. Never too early for a couple country bumpkins like us.

RANDY
Country Bumpkin? I'm the president of Citizens State Bank. I shouldn't even be seen in this dump. No offense, ma'am.

ANGIE

None taken. Love your wig.

Randy adjusts his hair piece.

BROOKS

(lowering his voice)

Randall, you're making me look dumb in front of my ex. Clearly, being polite with you isn't working. So answer me this: Are you just tickling my balls?

RANDY

What?

Brooks zips up his fly. Its been down this entire time.

BROOKS

Sir, look me in the eyes. Are you going to suck me or not?

BEAT

RANDY

God damn... You need Jesus. I'm leaving.

Randy exits. Angie looks at Brooks, concerned.

BROOKS

I'm doing better than it looks.

ANGIE

Clearly. You almost banged that dude. Still need these beers?

BROOKS

No, I--

ANGIE

Too late.

She pops them both, then slides one across for him. They CHEERS and take a sip, never taking their eyes off each other. There's *SOMETHING* between them.

BROOKS

So... how's the wine and cheese shop?

ANGIE

Oh, super closed. It was a little ahead of it's time for Manchester. We should've opened a Blockbuster.

BROOKS

That sucks. My lady and I are going through a rough spot, but now we're fixing things, so-- Sorry, is it weird to hear me talk about dating someone else?

ANGIE

I've been married for ten years.

BROOKS

I know it's just... Whatever. Anyway, I should go. I gotta figure out how to sell a car so I can get this big bonus.

ANGIE

Have you tried selling one to Ries? He's your friend, he's rich, and I'd love it if for once he came in here bragging about buying something other than paintball courses or go-kart tracks.

BROOKS

That's not a bad idea.

ANGIE

No, it's an incredible idea, and you're welcome. Don't be a stranger.

There's a lot more to be said, but no one is saying it. Brooks turns to leave.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Hey Brooks, I just gotta know...

Brooks turns around hopeful...

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Is that the exact Kohl's outfit you wore to our Homecoming?

BROOKS

No, this is a new Kohl's outfit.

INT. WHEELAN MOTORS SHOWROOM - LATER

Michael, who's clearly been eating all the wings himself, is covered in sauce. He sees a customer sitting in a DODGE RAM and slides in with a paper plate stacked with wings.

MICHAEL

How we doing?

CUSTOMER #3

Well, I think I'm ready to buy.

MICHAEL

No, I mean are we hungry? There's nothing worse than buying a truck on an empty stomach.

CUSTOMER #3

Um, I ate already. Now listen, I'm not paying sticker for this, so--

MICHAEL

Well, you def don't have to pay sticker for these wings because they are courtesy of Wheelan Motors. Just a small part of our world famous Wing Wednesdays.

CUSTOMER #3

Look, can I buy this truck?

MICHAEL

Yes. Of course. But first...

Michael locks the doors.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

A wing?

He pushes the plate at the customer who shoves it back, knocking wings everywhere. The customer unlocks his door and flees. Michael picks up a wing, blows dirt off, looks around, then eats it.

INT. ICU HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

In an immaculate room, Chris is sitting in a La-Z-Boy with her feet up, eating cheesecake while watching Ghost Hunters on a flat screen TV. Jim is wheeled in, stiff as a board.

NURSE

We should have the test results in an hour or so. Don't worry, he's a fighter.

CHRIS

Great. Hey, this cheesecake is a little dry. Can I try the tiramisu instead? Also, my husband is going to need some ice chips. Thankyousomuch.

The nurse nods and leaves. Jim sits up.

JIM

I can't believe it worked!

Chris looks up from sanding her nails.

CHRIS

Mama's on vacay.

JIM

Why do I need ice chips?

She holds up a shaker and two glasses.

CHRIS

Martinis.

They laugh and kiss.

INT. WHEELAN MOTORS SHOWROOM - LATER

Doug T walks up to Michael, who's standing next to three remaining wings, looking queasy. He's eaten ninety-seven.

DOUG T
I didn't think people would want to shop
for cars while eating messy food, but
looks like your promotion's been a hit.

Michael nods, scared to move for fear of shitting himself.

MICHAEL
It takes... a big man... to admit when
he's wrong.

DOUG T
Maybe we should do a Wing Wednesday
every week.

MICHAEL
Totally...

Doug T reaches for one of the remaining wings. Michael,
refusing to give in, weakly slaps his hand away.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Customers only... Keep... pee-pee hands
away.

DOUG T
(genuine concern)
Do you need to use the bathroom?

MICHAEL
And leave... wings un-gaurded? Nice try...

EXT. WHEELAN MOTORS LOT - AFTERNOON

Brooks and Ries are staring at a purple DODGE RAM.

RIES
You didn't say it was purple.

BROOKS
'Cause it's not. It's Patriot Pearl.
Come on. It's all we have in stock.

RIES
I didn't become a millionaire by
buying purple trucks.

BROOKS
No, you became a millionaire by
your dad dying.

RIES
Wow. That was aggressive.

BROOKS
Sorry man. I'm just jealous.

RIES
Of my money?

BROOKS
No, that your dad is dead.

EXT. WHEELAN MOTORS LOT - CONTINUOUS

Todd has mastered stick. He pulls the car up to a ramp that leads to a fake mountain display. Todd and Stacy T fist bump.

Todd
Here's to sticking it to bad dads.
Why are you mad at yours?

STACY T
He cut me off after he found my ketamine.
And it's not like I use. I just sell.

Todd decides he didn't hear that. He easily drives up the ramp and they jump out to celebrate.

TODD
That's right! Retire, old man!

YOUTUBE INSTRUCTOR (O.S.)
... Now apply the parking brake.

STACY T
Um, Mr. Wheelan...

The unmanned Challenger starts sliding down the display ramp.

EXT. WHEELAN MOTORS LOT - CONTINUOUS

Brooks and Ries stare at the Purple RAM.

RIES
I'll tell you what. I'll get this truck, then have it painted red.

BROOKS
For real? I knew I could count on-

STACY T	TODD
Look out!	Get out of the way!

The unmanned Challenger barrels towards the RAM.

BROOKS
No! No! No! Not the RAM!

The Challenger barely misses the RAM... but HITS Ries, who bounces over the hood. The Challenger smashes into a pole.

BROOKS (CONT'D)

Oh my god, Ries are you ok?

RIES

What? No! I got hit by a goddamn truck!

BROOKS

Can't be that bad, one of your shoes is still on. Now, let's get the paperwork started so you can get to the hospital.

Just then Doug T runs out of the dealership, gagging.

DOUG T

He finally did it! He barfed. He barfed everywhere! God help us!

BROOKS

He better not have barfed in my cube cause I need it to finish up this sale with my best friend.

Ries peels off in his BMW screaming out the window.

RIES

Choke and die, Brooks!

BROOKS

Probably just getting his checkbook.

END OF ACT 2

ACT 3

INT. BEAVER'S BAR - NIGHT

Brooks, Todd, and Michael sit quietly in a corner booth.

BROOKS

Welp, I might actually be dumber
than you two.

MICHAEL

Nice try, pal, but you're not even close.
Todd almost killed Ries and I didn't just
barf today, I crapped my pants a little.

TODD

Why would you admit that?

MICHAEL

He was trying to be better than us!

Angie walks over to the booth, folding her apron.

ANGIE

B-Dubz, you get that bonus?

BROOKS

My life's a constant nightmare. What do
you think?

ANGIE

Woof. You wanna drink beers and
yell about it?

BROOKS

Grab a seat.

ANGIE

Nope, I don't drink where I work.

BROOKS

But, this is the only bar in town.

ANGIE

What about... Bar High School?

TODD

Bar High School?! I haven't been
there in forever. Let's do it!

MICHAEL

Count me in. This place is too fancy
ever since it was on "Bar Rescue."

BROOKS

(looking around)
This got Bar Rescue'd?

MICHAEL
Oh yeah. Big time.

BROOKS
But I can still see into both bathrooms.

MICHAEL
Yeah, that's new. He did that.

EXT. BAR HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

A graffiti-covered shed in the woods with various power tools strewn about. It looks like a SAW movie until Todd plugs in a strand of lights, which gives it a cozy glow.

MICHAEL
Still looks incredible.

ANGIE
How'd you guys find this place?

TODD
We found it when we were looking for
porno mags in the woods.

BROOKS
The lights were Michael's idea.

MICHAEL
My last good one.

TODD
No it wasn't. Honestly, Wing Wednesday
wasn't a terrible idea.

MICHAEL
No, Dad was right. It was dumb.

BROOKS
You think Dad has good ideas? The man
bought fifty roast beef sandwiches to eat
for an entire week at the Wisconsin Dells.

TODD
When they got soaked in the cooler, he
wouldn't admit it, so he had to eat wet
Arby's the entire trip. At least you have
ideas, Michael. I can't even manage a car
dealership.

BROOKS
Yeah you can Todd. Who cares if you
dinged a car? Remember when Dad tried to
jump a jet ski over Gary Grimm's boat
during the Lake Maquoketa team builder?

MICHAEL
He didn't even get air!

BROOKS

Exactly. If anyone here sucks, it's me. I spent my whole life thinking I was better than this place and... I'm not.

TODD/MICHAEL/ANGIE

Not at all./Definitely not./Might actually be worse.

BROOKS

Ok, that was pretty quick.

TODD

But I'll say this -- you're the best at reminding us that no matter what dumb stuff we've done, Dad's done something way worse... I've missed that.

MICHAEL

Me too. Honestly, it's great having you back Brooks. I don't even know the last time me and Todd saw each other outside of work.

TODD

It was Uncle Chadd's funeral.
(off Michael's look)
When I grabbed your hand and made you touch the corpse.

MICHAEL

Oh right. Still don't think he was dead. Pretty sure we buried a man alive that day. Anyway, I'm glad you're here, Brooks. I'm glad we're all here.

BROOKS

Me too.

The brothers share a moment, which is broken with a rustle as a group of **TEENAGERS** approach, carrying their own beer.

TEENAGER #1

Who the hell is at Tree Bar?

TODD

Tree Bar? That's a stupid name. This is Bar High School, idiot.

TEENAGER #1

I don't care, you old bitch.

Todd takes his shirt off.

MICHAEL

Don't talk to my brother like that.

BROOKS

Whoa, we're not fighting kids. Bar High School is something we can all share--

Michael immediately grabs a 2x4 and smashes it over a teenager. "**THUNDER KISS '65**" by White Zombie starts blasting. All hell breaks loose. Todd starts throwing WILD punches. Michael wrestles a kid to the ground.

TEENAGER #2

He's biting! He's biting me!!

The lone **TEENAGE GIRL** approaches Angie.

ANGIE

God, men are so stupid. Everything always turns into a fight. I'm Angi-

The girl punches Angie in the neck.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

You little skank!

Angie starts wailing on the teenage girl. Meanwhile, Michael and Todd have become out-numbered. One of the high schoolers tries to break Michael's neck like they're in Bloodsport.

MICHAEL

He's actually trying to murder me!

Two teens take turns punching Todd in the stomach as another tries to start a chainsaw. Brooks watches the madness, stunned, until a hammer whizzes past his head.

BROOKS

Oh, we're throwing hammers now???

Brooks tackles the kid who threw the hammer, grabs a nail gun, and puts a nail through the kid's hand. The music STOPS.

BROOKS (CONT'D)

I WENT TOO FAR!

Music BACK UP as they run through the woods in slow motion, screaming as a hailstorm of rusty tools fly past their heads.

CUT TO:

INT. E.R. WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

The brothers and Angie sit in silence. They're all in bad shape except Brooks. Michael's even in a wheelchair.

TODD

Say what you want. I respect those kids.

MICHAEL
(shell shocked)
Their eyes were filled with rage.

NURSE
Michael Wheelan?

Todd pushes Michael away, leaving Angie and Brooks.

BROOKS
Is it weird that I had fun tonight?

ANGIE
You stigmata'd a child.

BROOKS
Allegedly!

ANGIE
Sure. And it's not weird we had fun.
(bittersweet)
We always do.

INT. NICE HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Chris and Jim are eating oysters and sipping fine wine.
There's a knock at the door. The doctor walks in to find
Chris kneeling over "paralyzed" Jim, deep in prayer while she
dabs his head with a wash cloth.

DOCTOR
Unfortunate news, ma'am. All the
tests have come back inconclusive.

CHRIS
(feigning concern)
Oh no. I guess that means we'll
have to stay overnight?

DOCTOR
No, we're going to start prepping him
for surgery. We need to open him up and
find out what's going on.

Jim starts furiously blinking and moaning.

JIM
Uhhnnnnnnngh. Uhhnnnnnnngh.

CHRIS
Ooooooh... Would you mind giving us
a moment alone to pray?

CUT TO:

EXT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

"THUNDER KISS '65" by White Zombie kicks BACK IN as the
hospital staff chases Chris and Jim down the hallway.

She pushes him in a wheelchair, peeling around corners and knocking over patients.

INT. E.R. WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

BROOKS

Well, what I've fought against my entire life is happening. I sell cars for my dad now.

ANGIE

I've never understood why things are so complicated between you and Jim.

BROOKS

It's not complicated. It's just he thinks that I think I'm better than him. And I think that he thinks, he's better than me. And what he doesn't understand is I am right.

(off her confused look)

Who cares, bottom line, I'm stuck here.

ANGIE

Stuck here? What's wrong with here? I'm here.

BROOKS

I didn't mean it that way.

ANGIE

Look, I know I don't have it all figured out. I mean, Paul and I are seeing a couples counselor that our bankruptcy lawyer recommended. But maybe you failed in Chicago because that's not where you're supposed to be. Maybe you're supposed to screw up here. Look, Just because Manchester is a small town doesn't mean you still can't make big mistakes.

They stare into each other's eyes until... Chris and Jim BURST into the waiting room. Brooks jumps up.

BROOKS

Mom? Dad?

CHRIS

Brooks!?!

JIM

Get us out of here!

Chris notices Angie.

Chris (CONT'D)

(loud whisper at Brooks)

ANGIE?? I LOVE THIS FOR YOU.

JIM

We gotta scram. Now.

BROOKS

Sure. Let me just say bye to-

Brooks turns to see that **PAUL**, Angie's husband, has arrived. He hugs Angie. As he does this, Angie looks past Paul at Brooks, who gives a slight, sad wave goodbye.

INT. FIREWORKS TENT - NEXT MORNING

Chris helps Jim install an AC unit as Stacy T relays instructions from Youtube. The brothers watch. Todd has two massive black eyes. Michael is in a neck brace.

BROOKS

Should you hire someone to do that?

CHRIS

And cut into the profits? No. From now on me and your father are working as a team. He let me buy an AC unit, and I'm letting him install it.

MICHAEL

Don't care. Why'd you call us in early?

JIM

Because the car you morons wrecked yesterday was a "sold" car. So, turns out we didn't hit the quota. Now, I can hold off sending in the final numbers till we officially open at nine--

STACY T

"And make sure the coils aren't touching anything flammable..."

JIM WHEELAN

Not now Stacy T! I'm yelling.
(back at the boys)
That means you idiots have 25 minutes to sell a car. Who's going to do it? Who will win? Who will prove themselves worthy of the Wheelan name?

Todd and Michael look at each other. Are they gonna fall back into this trap again? Yep. They race onto the lot to find...

EXT. WHEELAN MOTORS LOT - CONTINUOUS

...Freddie Admunson, the dealership's perennial tire-kicker.

TODD

It's Freddie Admunson. We're screwed.

MICHAEL

Maybe you are. I got this.

TODD
We're trying to sell a car, not spill
chili in it.

MICHAEL
Shut up, you fat raccoon!

TODD
(screams)
Ahhhhhhh!

Todd tackles Michael to the ground.

MICHAEL
My neck! Watch my neck!

Brooks steels himself as he approaches Freddie, who is once again inspecting the Jeep Wagoneer. It all comes down to this. Brooks has one last chance to save the day.

BROOKS
What are we thinking, Freddie?

FREDDIE ADMUNSON
I'm thinking it might be time to upgrade from my junker. How hot does the leather interior in this bad boy get in the summer?

BROOKS
No, that's not what you're thinking. You're thinking, "I need a new car. I deserve something better." Well guess what?

Brooks looks at his family, then the car lot, then turns back to Freddie.

BROOKS (CONT'D)
You don't... Who the hell do you think you are? That junker you came in is the reason you're here today. Sure, it might not be the best. It might not be as big and fancy as this car. It might even embarrass you in front of your friends sometimes. But when you need it, that junker... that junker will always show up for you. Even at the mental hospital you didn't need to be in, and it was all just a total misunderstanding!

BEAT.

FREDDIE ADMUNSON
Sold.

INT. JIM'S OFFICE - LATER

The sales team applauds as Jim places the first sale under Brooks' name on the sales board.

JIM

The old reverse psychology trick. Used it many times. I'm proud of you. Looks like you got that Wheelan gene after all.

Doug T pats Brooks on the back.

DOUG T

Congrats, buddy.

BROOKS

Do not touch me with your pee hands.

Stacy T rushes in.

STACY T

Mr. Wheelan, did you make sure the AC coils weren't touching anything?

JIM

Why?

EXT. WHEELAN MOTORS LOT - DAY

The staff rushes out to see the fireworks tent EXPLODE. Fireworks go off in every direction. The Wheelans gather on the steps to watch this terrifying display. It's a strangely beautiful moment. This is a genuine local family.

TODD

Anyone got eyes on my kids?

END OF ACT 3

ACT FOUR**EXT. DOORWAY - DAY**

Brooks stares down at two tickets to Lollapalooza before he knocks on the door. He waits nervously until... Angie answers?! This is not Jenny Valvino's house!

ANGIE

Oh hey, B-Dubz! I didn't know you were stopping by.

BROOKS

Angie. Look, remember how you said I could still make big mistakes if I lived here?

They share a moment, both scared of what he might say next. Fortunately, he doesn't get that chance, as Paul enters.

PAUL

Oh hey, Brooks. What's up?

Seeing Paul snaps Brooks back to reality.

BROOKS

Oh, um, I was just saying to Angie how I can't stop making big mistakes and...

(struggles, then)

...I got these two tickets to Lollapalooza, but forgot I can't go. So maybe you two want them?

Angie knows he's lying, but Paul doesn't. He happily snatches the tickets.

PAUL

Heck yes! What do we owe you?

BROOKS

Nothing. Consider it a late wedding gift. All I ask is two things: if you know anyone who needs a car, send them to see me down at Wheelan Motors and second...

(to Angie, bittersweet)

...have fun.

ANGIE

We always do.

They share a secret smile as Brooks turns and heads back to the lot, ready to make some more big mistakes.

END OF EPISODE