

Untitled Johnston Bros. Road Short

By

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A black screen. We hear the SOUND of some blues licks being played on a ukulele, as well the whirring background noise one hears inside a vehicle travelling at a pretty steady clip on a rural highway.

SLOW FADE UP TO:

INT. CAR - DAY

The passenger of the car, a chubby and unkempt man of about 40, is revealed to be the source of the uke playing. This is LARRY, who is dressed in an ill-fitting T-shirt and cheap sunglasses. Seated next to him, driving the car, is JAMES, a slimmer, younger man of about 30. He is dressed in a nice bright-blue polo shirt and more expensive sunglasses. The uke playing continues for several minutes.

JAMES

Put that stupid thing away!

LARRY

Fine, goddammit.

Larry places the uke in the back seat. He looks around for something to do and eventually just stares out the window.

SLOW FADE TO BLACK

THE NEXT PASSAGE OF DIALOG STARTS AS WE FADE UP SLOWLY TO:

INT. CAR - DAY

Larry is adding rubber bands from a plastic bag to a rubber band ball as James drives on.

LARRY

The double buck, the congress, the muskrat, the windsor...no, the windsor is a necktie knot...oh, I know, the saddlehorn, the trapper, the...the...oh, the sowbelly, the copperhead, the copperlock, the russlock, the peanut, the butterbean...and...and...and...THE BARLOW! Oh, and the whittler! Almost forgot the whittler. Grandpa taught me the 13 types of pocket knife when we went camping with the cub scouts in, shoot, probably '82. I'll never forget that. He also showed me the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LARRY (cont'd)  
various craters on the moon that  
night but I can't remember them.

EXT. CAR - RURAL ROAD - DAY

The car drives by during Larry's dialog

SLOW FADE TO BLACK AS LARRY FINISHES HIS SPEECH

SLOW FADE IN

INT. CAR - DAY

Larry is putting together a balsa wood glider plane. When he completes it he pretends to fly it through the air a few times, making engine noises. Then he pauses, looks at James, and tosses the glider at his face.

JAMES  
Goddammit, Larry, we're almost  
there. Can't you just sit still?!?

LARRY  
No, I won't! What the hell does a  
smoking stand have to do with  
anything anyway?

JAMES  
The old man wants it for Grandpa.

LARRY?  
What?

JAMES  
The old man said Grandpa wanted his  
old smoking stand from the old  
house to be next to him.

LARRY  
What the hell for?

JAMES  
Because he's dying, okay? Grandpa  
is dying. He's almost dead. He  
might not even be alive by the time  
we get back.

LARRY  
So what the hell are we doing here  
instead of there! Turn the car  
around!

(CONTINUED)

JAMES  
NO.

LARRY  
James!

JAMES  
No. Dad said go get the smoking  
stand so that's what we're doing.

SLOW FADE TO BLACK

SLOW FADE UP TO:

EXT. RURAL FIELD - DAY

A WIDE SHOT of an empty field, perhaps a pit where a house once stood. We hear the sound of car doors slamming as the brothers enter the frame from either side and walk towards where the house used to be.

JAMES  
The old house has been gone for a  
long time.

LARRY  
No kidding.

JAMES  
Guess we better head back.

LARRY  
Why did we come out here, James?

Pause as James considers. He turns squarely at his brother.

JAMES  
Because Grandpa wanted his smoking  
stand.

James's glare lingers on Larry, then he turns and exits the frame. Larry follows shortly after.

FADE TO BLACK