

PHILLIP & JAMES

When Phillip stops off at a convenience store for directions, he
meets James.

HEADLIGHTS flash out of a dark haze, winding and twisting through rugged moonlit mountains scattered with cacti. A Coyote howls as a vehicle, an RV comes toward us. A child's wails and an angry man's shouts can be heard as the dilapidated RV barrels past us, past a highway sign that reads, *Arizona -- The Grand Canyon State Welcomes You.*

FADE IN:

INT. NIGHT CLUB, SCOTTSDALE ARIZONA -- LATER NIGHT

A bird's-eye view of a crowded dance floor. Strobe lights wash over a sea of intoxicated people moving their bodies to the music the DJ's pumping out on the ones and twos.

DJ

If you fucking tonight MAKE SOME
NOISE!

And the crowd ERUPTS. Over this, we hear the SOUNDS of two people already at it.

HALL OUTSIDE THE MEN'S RESTROOM -- SAME

A cool, old black BATHROOM ATTENDANT has moved his stool out into the hall where he sits in front of the restroom door. The moans and grunts of the serious banging happening inside the restroom are clearly heard out here in the hall.

A MAN clutching his lower stomach, just moments away from having himself an accident, circles back over to the attendant with a nasty grimace on his face.

MAN

PLEASE sir! I'm begging you!

ATTENDANT

I dun told you already. Bathroom's
out of order. And besides, who
takes shits in a club, anyway?
That's just nasty.

An ominous SOUND suddenly grows from the man's stomach. A rumbling like thunder. His eyes grow WIDE.

MAN

Oh Shit!

And he runs into the women's restroom causing quite a stir.

SCREAMS and SHOUTS as hordes of women rush out. Radio chatter leads to SECURITY running up the hall, about to turn into the women's restroom when they are turned back by a loud EXPLOSION OF ASS.

As security looks away and radios for a mop and bucket...

...the door behind the attendant opens and an uncommonly handsome man with long hair comes out: meet JAMES. A thin MODEL CHICK by his side pulls down her skirt and fixes her hair which lays rather unusually on top of her head.

James hands a large bill over to the attendant.

JAMES

You're a good man, Lewis.
 (gentlemanly holds out his
 arm for the lady)
 Shall we beautiful?

She takes it. LEWIS smiles with a shake of his head thinking - *what a guy* - as he watches the two walk off.

EXT. SCOTTSDALE -- SAME NIGHT

The yellow RV moves down a street lined with high-end clubs, restaurants and bars. An intersection approaches up ahead.

HUSBAND (OVER)

Eighty-sixth street's coming up.

WIFE (OVER)

I know.

HUSBAND (OVER)

Need to know which way to go honey.

WIFE (OVER)

Um...

HUSBAND (OVER)

Right or left?

WIFE (OVER)

Uh...

HUSBAND (OVER)

Right or left?!

WIFE (OVER)

I'm not sure!

HUSBAND (OVER)

JESUS CHRIST!

The RV suddenly veers off to the side of the road.

INT. RV -- CONTINUOUS

PHILLIP (30s, behind the wheel) throws the RV in park and looks daggers at his wife, EVELYN (30s, sweet, map in hand).

PHILLIP
 Gimme that Goddamnit!
 (snatches the map)
 How hard is it to follow a simple map? Huh? You sleep the entire way, while I drive the *trail of fuckin tears* and the one time I ask you for help, you come up short! Don't forget this move was your idea.

Phillip glares at Evelyn then whips the gear back into drive.

PHILLIP (CONT'D)
 Knew I shoulda upped our data plan.

As the RV SWERVES back onto the road...

EXT. SAME ROAD -- CONTINUOUS

...it nearly sideswipes a rather SHINY CAR cruising the speed limit. The RV HONKS. The shiny car VEERS out the way.

INT. SHINY CAR -- MOVING -- CONTINUOUS

The model chick looks over at the RV speeding past: Phillip sticking his angry face out the window, flipping them off.

PHILLIP
 Fucking asshole!

MODEL CHICK
 We should get a camper.

The model chick looks over to James, he, silently to her. Over this-- we hear muffled ARGUING.

INT/EXT. RV / CIRCLE K -- MINUTES LATER

The RV is parked in front of a brightly lit convenience store. The pale light exposing every dent and ding. Phillip opens the door steaming, misses the step and falls to the ground. Expletives rain out of Phillip's mouth as he picks himself up off the ground and SLAMS the door.

Evelyn puts her hand on her forehead and sits back in her seat.

In the backseat, 6-year old TAYA, watches her father limp into the store then asks:

TAYA

Mommy?

EVELYN

Not now sweetie. Mommy has a headache.

And so Taya looks over at her brother LUKE (13) sitting sullenly with his head against the window and asks:

TAYA

Luke.

LUKE

Not now Taya.

TAYA

Jesus Christ! All I wanna know is what a *'fuckin son of a bitch'* is?

On that outburst, both Luke and Evelyn look at Taya with shock as the shiny car pulls up alongside the RV.

JAMES (OVER)

Be right back, baby.

INT/EXT. SHINY CAR / CIRCLE K LOT -- CONTINUOUS

James exits the car, approaches the store and looks over at the RV, catches Evelyn's eyes before she can look away.

INT. CIRCLE K -- CONTINUOUS

The door-mounted bell rings as James enters the store. An empty-headed CLERK looks up from Phillip and the wrinkly map splayed out on the countertop. Phillip glances back at James who acknowledges both men in passing to the back.

CLERK

(hillbilly accent)

Like I was splainin' to ya...

(Phillip turning back to the clerk)

...I'm not the brightest bulb in the chandelier when it comes to sense of direction. Just yesterday, I got lost comin' here if you can believe it. Sorry. Afraid I can't be much to help ya.

Phillip's chin sinks into his chest.

JAMES (OVER)

Where ya headed?

Phillip turns over his shoulder at James standing there, staring with his piercing blue eyes and two bottled waters.

PHILLIP

Wish I could say. We're lost.
Rather, my incompetent wife's lost.

JAMES

Well you know what they say... "in order to find your way, one must first become lost."

A moment. James smiles and Phillip just looks at him "lost".

JAMES (CONT'D)

So, you got an address of where you're trying to get to?

PHILLIP

Yeah. Right here.

Phillip digs a piece of paper from his pocket, shows James.

PHILLIP (CONT'D)

We're from outta town. Wife booked a place on Airbnb. Would put it in my phone, but I'm out of data.

JAMES

Been there before.
(reading)
Well, how bout that.

PHILLIP

What?

JAMES

Seems we were destined to run into each other my friend...
(off Phillips look)
1345 East Cyprus is right next door to me.

EXT. CIRCLE K -- MOMENTS LATER

James (water in hand) and Phillip exit the store together. James turns to Phillip and extends his hand.

JAMES

Never did get your name.

PHILLIP

(meeting James's hand)
Phillip.

JAMES

James. Pleasure to meet you.

Phillip nods, starts to his ramshackle RV when...

JAMES (CONT'D)

Hey Phillip...

Phillip turns back.

JAMES (CONT'D)

You should just follow me. We're
virtually going to the same place.

INT. RV -- MOVING -- CONTINUOUS

A melancholic Evelyn looks out the passenger window as Phillip drives. The children silent in the backseat.

Ahead, through the windshield we can see the shiny car. James behind the wheel, his model chick in the passenger seat. Suddenly she decides to take a nap in James's lap or maybe do something else. Phillip and Evelyn exchange dead looks. Over this-- we hear the sound of car doors closing.

INT/EXT. RV PARKED IN THE DRIVEWAY (1345) -- LATER NIGHT

Both rear doors on the RV are open. While the children carry light bags inside the house, Phillip grumbles to Evelyn standing nearby as he pulls heavy luggage out of the RV.

PHILLIP

(strained)

How many times must I tell you not
to pack these bags with so much
shit?! What do I look like--

James's voice cuts off Phillip...

JAMES (O.S.)

Good night.

Phillip pops his head out of the RV and looks over at James and his model chick taking a final puff of something before heading inside their house.

EVELYN

Is that marijuana I smell?

Phillip looks back at Evelyn as if to say- *what'd you know.*

INT. 1345 HOUSE -- WEE HOURS OF THE NIGHT

A quiet house creaking in the night. We hear light GRUNTS.

INT. BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Evelyn sleeps on her side, her back to Phillip who has his hand down his pants. Unable to pleasure himself, Phillip rolls over to Evelyn and whispers into ear.

PHILLIP
Honey, you awake?

EVELYN
No.

PHILLIP
Let's do something.

EVELYN
I am. I'm sleeping.

Phillip about to touch her--

EVELYN (CONT'D)
Don't even think about it.

Phillip freezes. Huffs and rolls over to his side.

EXT. 1344 (HOUSE) -- NEXT MORNING

James brings a cup of coffee to his lips as he stands half naked in his driveway, facing the bright, crisp day.

The sound of a door opening off-screen, releasing the SOUNDS of a nasty argument between you guessed it:

PHILLIP
We could easily have done it in the shower! I swear...

A door SLAMS. James looks next door at Phillip (looking like he didn't sleep one bit) stomping over to the RV.

JAMES
Good morning.

Phillip pauses, shields his eyes from the sun as he looks over at James.

PHILLIP
What's so good about it?

JAMES
The sun. Coffee. Life.

PHILLIP

Yeah well, the sun hurts my eyes, I hate coffee and death's sounding pretty good right about now.

JAMES

(beat)
Heading somewhere?

PHILLIP

To the store. That glorious time of the month again.

JAMES

(smiles)
Want some company?

PHILLIP

Did yours leave already?

James looks confused.

JAMES

I'm not following?

PHILLIP

The woman you were with last night.

JAMES

You mean my wife?

Phillip with an -- Oh -- look on his face.

JAMES (CONT'D)

She's not much of a morning person.
(pauses for effect)
Here. Lemme put some clothes on.

INT. RV -- MOVING -- A BIT LATER

James looks around the RV excitedly.

JAMES

First time riding in one of these.

Phillip looks over at James wondering what rock he crawled out from under.

PHILLIP

(sarcastic)
She's a beaut.

JAMES

I'll say. Plenty of room. Could
get real nasty in one of these.
(looking into backseat)
Just last night my wife was saying
how she wanted one.

PHILLIP

I'll trade ya any day.

A serious look crosses James's face. This is the first time
we've seen this side of him. He sits forward in his seat and
falls silent.

INT. AISLE, GROCERY STORE -- LATER

Phillip and James stare at a shelf full of feminine products.

PHILLIP

How is there so many?

JAMES

Awful lotta vagina in this world,
Phillip. And no two are alike.

Phillip glances at James, then looks back at the shelf.

JAMES (CONT'D)

What kind does she usually use?

Phillip shrugs. James looks at Phillip with surprise.

JAMES (CONT'D)

You don't know? How long have you
two been married?

PHILLIP

(sighs)
I've served fourteen of a life
sentence.

James laughs.

JAMES

That was funny. But seriously, you
don't know what your wife uses?

PHILLIP

(looks at James)
You know what YOUR wife uses?

James pauses, stares off plaintively, suddenly becoming
serious. He reaches for a brand and gives it to Phillip.

JAMES

She used to use these.

Phillip looks at the package, then looks over at James already halfway up the aisle.

INT. RV -- MOVING -- LATER

A silent ride. No talking. Phillip looks over at James staring plaintively out the passenger window.

PHILLIP

Couldn't sleep much last night.
Did some thinking. That was you I
almost ran into, wasn't it?

Phillip checks the road, then glances back over at James.

PHILLIP (CONT'D)

Calling you a fucking asshole was
wrong. So was flipping you off.
Getting to know you, I now see--

James suddenly cuts Phillip off...

JAMES

If your wife were to leave this
earth tomorrow, how would you
react?

Phillip watching the road with a puzzled look on his face.

PHILLIP

What're you talking about?

JAMES

It's a simple question Phillip. If
your wife suddenly died, how would
you take it? Would you be hurt?

PHILLIP

Yeah. Of course. Absolutely.

James looks over at Phillip. And Phillip looks over at him.

JAMES

Bet you would feel regret for
treating her the way you do, huh?

PHILLIP

Excuse me?

JAMES

C'mon Phillip. Be honest with yourself.

(pauses)

There are two types of men in this world. There's men who admire women and take the time to listen to them. And then there's men who claim to respect women but never leave a single chance vacant of insulting them. That's you, Phillip. To be honest, that used to be me, too. Before my wife was diagnosed with stage four cancer.

The news hits Phillip hard in the face. James scoffs at a thought crossing his mind.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Wife used to have melons. And hair. Fucking cancer man. Fucking Chemo. Thank God for wigs and bras, man.

James looks over at Phillip-- *Wigs and bras, man.*

JAMES (CONT'D)

Don't have much more time with her. Six months, a year maybe. But I know when she does go, I won't regret the time we spent together.

(smiles)

At night, we party like two college kids on a 7-year plan then sleep away the day. She likes it that way. Says we're making up for lost time.

(looks to Phillip)

But it shouldn't be that way. Having to make up for lost time. Everyday should be cherished.

Phillip looks at James, into those piercing blue eyes covering up a sea of tragedy. He says nothing and continues driving.

EXT. 1345 (HOUSE) -- LATER DAY

Doors close as Phillip and James exit the RV. James walks around to Phillip (feminine pads in hand).

JAMES

Thanks again for letting me tag along.

PHILLIP
 Thanks for the company.
 (hinting to the pad)
 And the help.

JAMES
 What time are ya'll heading out?

PHILLIP
 Soon as possible.

JAMES
 (reflective)
 California. Linda, always wanted
 to live by the sea.

PHILLIP
 Soon as we get settled I'll shoot
 you an e-mail. The two of you
 should come out for a visit.

JAMES
 Yeah. Maybe we'll do that.

A moment.

PHILLIP
 Well I better get these to Evelyn
 before she turns the place into a
 Goddamn crime scene.

James smiles. Phillip, too. They shake hands and go their separate ways. We follow Phillip as he walks around the house to the front door. Before entering he looks at the wedding ring on his finger, touches it and thinks about how he's treated his wife for the past fourteen years. Phillip heaves a deep breath and opens the door. And just when we think he's undergone a dramatic transformation of character, Phillip looks down at the floor expecting something to be there, but it's empty. Nothing but ceramic tile and dust.

PHILLIP (CONT'D)
 Da fuck! You gotta be shittin' me!
 (looks up)
 EVELYN!!

Phillip stomps off enraged.

PHILLIP (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Goddamnit woman!! Why aren't the
 bags by the door?! EVELYN!!!!

CUT TO BLACK.