

FADE IN

EXT. GAS STATION IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE - NIGHT

Two vintage gas pumps and a small office. A light on a pole shines down on the gas pumps.

The office is twenty yards away. One light hangs low inside.

An old van rolls out of the dark up to the pumps.

Two twenty five year old men, RANDY and GARY, Jump from the van.

RANDY

We made it! I think we were running on fumes the last thirty miles.

GARY

That's how long I've had to pee.

Randy goes round to the pump and puts the nozzle in the van.

RANDY

I love this van. I once ran on fumes all the way to Modesto.

GARY

That's a long way. Are you sure your gas gauge wasn't broken.

RANDY

Never thought of that. Go empty your bladder. I'll fill the tank.

Gary takes off to the Andy Gump near the office.

Randy sees the silhouette of a man looking out the glass door window.

RANDY (CONT'D)

Hey. Could you turn on pump number...

Randy looks for a number on the pump and can't find one.

RANDY (CONT'D)

Could you turn on this one?

A large black mass moves fast behind Randy and creates a breeze enough to muss his hair.

Randy fixes his hair and looks behind him.

A mass moves past in front of Randy.

Randy looks back at the office.

RANDY (CONT'D)

Hey, hey, could you turn on the gas? You want me to pay first?

Randy takes a step toward the office and is hit then mauled by several creatures.

Like mythical beings with hideous faces. They have claw hands and evil faces. Some winged some not, but all are demons.

Two winged demons drag Randy toward the Andy Gump then up in the air just before Gary steps out of the door.

Gary walks to the car and pulls the nozzle out of the gas tank.

GARY

Randy. Hey, Ran-dy...let's go.

Gary tries to see into the darkness. An odd feeling comes over him and he looks at the camera with a puzzled expression.

Wings flair out from behind Gary as though he had wings.

Gary jerks and looks concerned. A demon hand clutching Gary's heart pushes through his shirt.

Gary takes pause as he identifies what the hand is holding.

Gary slides off of the demon's arm. The demon looks at the heart then at the camera, opens it's mouth with a shriek and bites the lens.

CUT TO BLACK:

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

This dirty, vintage station stands alone on the road, in the desert, in the middle of nowhere.

SAM, an old scruffy, weather worn man shuffles up to the old time beverage dispenser. The kind you open from the top.

Sam puts his money in.

The coins drop in coin box.

Sam opens the top, reaches in and grabs a bottle of soda. After several tugs he cannot get his selection out of the machine.

SAM

Damn machine. If I can't fix you  
I'm going to tear you apart.

Sam goes in the office and brings out a tool box from behind the small counter.

A motorcycle with a lone rider coasts in with chain dragging. The rider, JOHNNY, is a twenty five year old good looking man. He has on a helmet, jeans and leather coat.

Johnny pulls off his helmet, dismounts and inspects his chain.

JOHNNY

Hey old timer. You got any tools I  
can use?

SAM

We don't lend tools. Company policy.

JOHNNY

You think I'll run off with a wrench?

SAM

Company policy.

JOHNNY

Where would I go?

Johnny sweeps his hand to indicate the barren wasteland all around. A hawk screeches in the distance.

SAM

Bring it over in the shade. Let's  
see what you got.

Johnny wheels the motorcycle over and puts the kickstand down.

SAM (CONT'D)

What do you need?

JOHNNY

Screwdriver and pliers ought to do it.

Sam digs the tools from the tool chest and hands them to Johnny.

SAM

Is it bad?

JOHNNY

The connector pin fell out. Not serious. Unless you don't have a connector pin.

SAM

Sorry.

Johnny wipes his hands on a rag and stands.

JOHNNY

You got a truck around back?

SAM

No. I don't.

JOHNNY

Unless someone comes by I'll be cooling my heels here till morning.

Johnny and Sam take a look up and down the deserted desert road.

SAM

Going to Vegas?

JOHNNY

Yep.

SAM

Going to try your luck?

JOHNNY

I'm looking for something.

SAM

You think you'll find it in Vegas? You're not alone, brother.

JOHNNY

Could be in Vegas. Could be here.

Johnny goes to the old pop dispenser.

SAM

Nothing here but me and the buzzards.

Sam looks up then Johnny looks up at buzzards making lazy circles in the sky.

JOHNNY

I don't know why they stay in a place like this.

Johnny digs in his pocket for change. He puts the coins in the machine and they drop in the coin box.

SAM

A buzzard is an opportunist. They go where the food is.

Johnny pulls a bottle of pop out of the dispenser.

Sam is surprised Johnny got a drink.

Johnny opens his drink, leans on the machine and focuses back on the birds.

Sam goes to the open machine, reaches in and cannot pull out a soda.

JOHNNY

A buzzard is a scavenger. They circle where something is about to die.

Johnny notices Sam's trouble and pulls some coins from his pocket.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Here, let me, old timer.

Johnny puts coins in the machine.

Sam licks his lips with anticipation.

The coins drop in the box, Sam reaches in, grabs a bottle of soda and can't get it out. He backs off in a frustrated huff.

SAM

I swear...there's one of these in  
the waiting room to hell.

Sam clicks the coin return and bends down to the return  
slot. Nothing falls in the slot. He looks up at Johnny.

Johnny holds another bottle of soda from the machine. He  
uses the opener on the machine and opens the bottle.

Sam is dumfounded as he stands.

Johnny holds out the bottle to Sam.

JOHNNY

Take it.

Sam is slow as he reaches out and takes the bottle.

As Sam is about to drink an old beat up van rumbles in the  
drive way and up to the building. Steam billows from under  
the hood

SAM

Maybe you can get a ride with this  
fellow.

JOHNNY

Some how, I doubt it.

Sam tips back the bottle and drinks.

ANTHONY, a black thirty three year old, clean cut, collegiate  
fellow gets out of the van and looks at the front of the  
vehicle.

Water pours out from the bottom of the radiator. Steam is  
everywhere.

ANTHONY

I seem to be overheating. Could  
you help?

Sam holds up one finger and keeps drinking.

JOHNNY

Where you headed?

ANTHONY

Uh...I...uh...

JOHNNY

Vegas?

ANTHONY

I'm trying to get...yes, Las Vegas,  
and I'm lost.

Sam lowers the half empty bottle of pop.

SAM

None is so lost as he who will not  
see.

ANTHONY

Do you know the last rites too? My  
van seems to be at death's door.

Sam belches, hands his soda to Johnny, pops the hood and  
looks at the engine.

Johnny pops his head under the hood.

JOHNNY

Sam? I don't mean to criticize,  
but the quote is, none is so blind  
as he who will not see.

SAM

Well, this is how it is, see, your  
radiator is cracked.

ANTHONY

Can you fix it?

Sam takes his soda back from Johnny.

SAM

Yes I can. All I need to do is  
replace it with a new radiator.

Sam takes a drink of his soda.

ANTHONY

And?

SAM

I can't get one till morning.

ANTHONY

There's no way you could get one  
sooner?

SAM  
You could pray.

ANTHONY  
I'd rather use cash.

Sam drops the hood.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)  
What's the chance of getting a ride?

SAM  
Nothing until morning.

ANTHONY  
Can you suggest a good hotel?

SAM  
I hear the Venetian is nice.

ANTHONY  
You mean the one in Las Vegas.  
What are you saying? You're saying  
I need to stay here?

SAM  
You don't need to. You have to.

JOHNNY  
You won't be alone. My name's  
Johnny. Our host here is...

SAM  
They call me, Sam. Glad to have  
the company.

Sam wipes his hand on his pants and holds it out to Anthony.

Anthony gives Sam's hand an uninspired shake.

ANTHONY  
Anthony.  
(to Johnny)  
Are you sure? I really need to get  
to Las Vegas.

JOHNNY  
We don't have a choice.

ANTHONY  
I have a cell phone.

Anthony pulls it out and searches for bars.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)  
I can't get a signal. What about  
you?

JOHNNY  
I don't have a cell phone.

ANTHONY  
Sam?

SAM  
No no. No service here. Everything  
is dead.

JOHNNY  
The buzzards seem to agree with  
him.

Johnny points up and Anthony looks at the buzzards.

EXT. ROAD

An old Cadillac barrels off the road and up to the pumps.

Fifty nine year old GEORGE and his wife HELEN, a nice looking  
forty year old trying to cheat age, get out of the car.

Helen hauls up a 35mm digital camera.

HELEN  
Smile, George.

Helen snaps several pictures in a row. George looks away  
from the flash.

GEORGE  
I thought you had to pee. Go pee.

HELEN  
I do. I have to pee like a dead  
horse.

GEORGE  
You beat a dead horse. You piss  
like a race horse.

HELEN  
Doesn't that get all over the other  
horses?

GEORGE

They don't pee when they're running.  
Could you be any more stupid?

HELEN

That's not very nice.

George waves Helen off.

GEORGE

Yeah. Yeah.

HELEN

Mister, where can I use the ladies  
room?

SAM

All we got is the Andy Gump, ma'am.

HELEN

Looks kind of dirty.

SAM

I try to keep it tidy but if you  
have concerns...

Sam pulls a wad of paper out of his pocket, unfolds it and  
hands a wrinkled seat protector to Helen.

SAM (CONT'D)

You can use this.

HELEN

You're kidding?

SAM

Wish I were.

Helen walks to the ANDY GUMP to the left of the office.

Sam speaks under his breath to Anthony and Johnny.

SAM (CONT'D)

I would have taken the ass gasket  
if I was her.

Helen walks back, snatches the seat cover from Sam and turns  
back to the Andy Gump.

EXT. GAS PUMPS

George attempts to pump gas.

SAM  
Sorry, mister, I'm out of gas.

GEORGE  
How far is the nearest station?

SAM  
Where're you headed?

GEORGE  
Vegas.

SAM  
There's gas in Vegas.

GEORGE  
Any between here and Vegas?

SAM  
Nope. This was your last chance.

GEORGE  
What the hell am I going to do?

George pulls out his cell phone and dials.

GEORGE (CONT'D)  
Maxy, Max, yeah this is George.  
I'm 50 miles outside of Vegas on  
route 99. I need some gas. Look  
it up on the computer.

George lowers the phone and yells to Sam.

GEORGE (CONT'D)  
Hey, old timer where am I?

SAM  
Say again.

GEORGE  
Where am I, you old buzzard.

SAM  
Last Chance Gas on 99.

GEORGE  
What's the address here?

EXT. ANDY GUMP

Anthony gets a quizzical look on his face.

SAM  
Nine.

ANTHONY  
His phone isn't dead.

Sam strokes his chin and raises an eyebrow.

EXT. GAS PUMPS

GEORGE  
It's nine on ninety-nine. Hello?  
Hello? Damn.

George throws his phone on the seat of the car.

Helen comes back from the Andy Gump and Sam follows her.

HELEN  
Ok, George, I'm all freshened up.

SAM  
Mister. I don't know what to tell  
you. You'll just have to stay the  
night here.

HELEN  
Stay here? We have reservations at  
the Venetian.

SAM  
I hear that's nice.

GEORGE  
Where's a hotel?

SAM  
No hotel or motel --- just here.

GEORGE  
Helen, give me your cell.

Helen digs in her bottomless purse for her cell.

GEORGE (CONT'D)  
Jesus, Helen. I could have sent a  
carrier pigeon by now.

Helen pulls out her cell.

HELEN  
Here it is. Oh look, I have a  
message.

Helen attempts to retrieve her message.

George snatches the phone away from her.

GEORGE  
Give me that.

SAM  
That wasn't very nice.

GEORGE  
You ever been married?

SAM  
I owned a mule once.

GEORGE  
Not the same thing.

Sam gives George the eye.

George attempts to dial the cell.

GEORGE (CONT'D)  
The battery is dead. Anyone Have a  
cell phone?

ANTHONY  
No bars.

JOHNNY  
No phone.

SAM  
Looks like you'll have to make the  
best of it. Everyone inside. It's  
almost sundown.

Sam heads back to the office.

ANTHONY

I don't think any of us are afraid  
of the dark.

SAM

Trust me, Anthony, you don't want  
to be outside at night.

George rummages around in the trunk of the Cadillac.

HELEN

Is he suggesting we stay in that  
ratty place?

GEORGE

You've slept in worse.

HELEN

I am not staying in there with those  
people.

GEORGE

Dammit, Helen. Why can't you just  
go along with the crowd? Those  
other guys are in the same boat  
we're in. You don't hear them  
complaining do you?

HELEN

Look how filthy it is.

GEORGE

Sleep in the car.

HELEN

Sleep in the car? I don't want to  
sleep in the car.

GEORGE

Sleep on the ground. Sleep in the  
outhouse. I don't care.

EXT. OFFICE DOOR

Everyone is in the office. Sam stands in the door and turns  
to George and Helen.

SAM

Let's go, folks. It'll be dark in  
a few minutes.