

THE BIG LEBOWSKI

voices
affable,

We are floating up a steep scrubby slope. We hear male
gently singing "Tumbling Tumbleweeds" and a deep,
Western-accented voice--Sam Elliot's, perhaps:

VOICE-OVER

A way out west there was a fella,
fella I want to tell you about, fella
by the name of Jeff Lebowski. At
least, that was the handle his lovin'
parents gave him, but he never had
much use for it himself. This
Lebowski, he called himself the Dude.
Now, Dude, that's a name no one would
self-apply where I come from. But
then, there was a lot about the Dude
that didn't make a whole lot of sense
to me. And a lot about where he
lived, like- wise. But then again,
maybe that's why I found the place
s'durned innarestin'.

We top the rise and the smoggy vastness of Los Angeles at
twilight stretches out before us.

VOICE-OVER

They call Los Angeles the City of
Angels. I didn't find it to be that
exactly, but I'll allow as there are
some nice folks there. 'Course, I
can't say I seen London, and I never
been to France, and I ain't never
seen no queen in her damn undies as
the fella says. But I'll tell you
what, after seeing Los Angeles and
thisahere story I'm about to unfold--
wal, I guess I seen somethin' ever'
bit as stupefyin' as ya'd see in any
a those other places, and in English
too, so I can die with a smile on my
face without feelin' like the good
Lord gyped me.

INTERIOR RALPH'S

tracking
the
relaxed
their

It is late, the supermarket all but deserted. We are
in on a fortyish man in Bermuda shorts and sunglasses at
dairy case. He is the Dude. His rumpled look and
manner suggest a man in whom casualness runs deep.
He is feeling quarts of milk for coldness and examining
expiration dates.

VOICE-OVER

Now this story I'm about to unfold took place back in the early nineties-- just about the time of our conflict with Sad'm and the Eye-rackies. I only mention it 'cause some- times there's a man--I won't say a hee-ro, 'cause what's a hee-ro?--but sometimes there's a man.

of The Dude glances furtively about and then opens a quart milk. He sticks his nose in the spout and sniffs.

VOICE-OVER

And I'm talkin' about the Dude here-- sometimes there's a man who, wal, he's the man for his time'n place, he fits right in there--and that's the Dude, in Los Angeles.

CHECKOUT GIRL

to She waits, arms folded. A small black-and white TV next with her register shows George Bush on the White House lawn helicopter rotors spinning behind him.

GEORGE BUSH

This aggression will not stand. . .
This will not stand!

The Dude, peeking over his shades, scribbles something at the little customer's lectern. Milk beads his mustache.

VOICE-OVER

...and even if he's a lazy man, and the Dude was certainly that--quite possibly the laziest in Los Angeles County.

and The Dude has his Ralph's Shopper's Club card to one side is making out a check to Ralph's for sixty-nine cents.

VOICE-OVER

...which would place him high in the runnin' for laziest worldwide--but sometimes there's a man. . . sometimes there's a man.

EXTERIOR RALPH'S

Long shot of the glowing Ralph's. There are only two or three cars parked in the huge lot.

VOICE-OVER

Wal, I lost m'train of thought here. But--aw hell, I done innerduced him

enough.

The Dude is a small figure walking across the vast lot. Next to him walks a Mexican carry-out boy in a red apron and cap carrying a small brown bag holding the quart of milk. The two men's footsteps echo in the still of the night. After a beat of walking the Dude offhandedly points.

DUDE
It's the LeBaron.

DUDE'S HOUSE

The Dude is going up the walkway of a small Venice bungalow court. He holds the paper sack in one hand and a small leatherette satchel in the other. He awkwardly hugs the grocery bag against his chest as he turns a key in his door.

INSIDE

The Dude enters and flicks on a light. His head is grabbed from behind and tucked into an armpit. We track with him as he is rushed through the living room, his arm holding the satchel flailing away from his body. Going into the bedroom the outflung satchel catches a piece of doorframe and wallboard and rips through it, leaving a hole.

The Dude is propelled across the bedroom and on into a small bathroom, the satchel once again taking away a piece of doorframe. His head is plunged into the toilet. The paper bag hugged to his chest explodes milk as it hits the toilet rim and the satchel pulverizes tile as it crashes to the floor.

The Dude blows bubbles.

VOICE
We want that money, Lebowski. Bunny said you were good for it.

Hands haul the Dude out of the toilet. The Dude blubbers and gasps for air.

VOICE
Where's the money, Lebowski!

His head is plunged back into the toilet.

VOICE

Where's the money, Lebowski!

The hands haul him out again, dripping and gasping.

VOICE

WHERE'S THE FUCKING MONEY, SHITHEAD!

DUDE

It's uh, it's down there somewhere.
Lemme take another look.

His head is plunged back in.

VOICE

Don't fuck with us. If your wife
owes money to Jackie Treehorn, that
means you owe money to Jackie
Treehorn.

and The inquisitor hauls the Dude's head out one last time
flops him over so that he sits on the floor, back against
the toilet.

The Dude gropes back in the toilet with one hand.

Looming over him is a strapping blond man.

fly Beyond in the living room a young Chinese man unzips his
and walks over to a rug.

CHINESE MAN

Ever thus to deadbeats, Lebowski.

He starts peeing on the rug.

The Dude's hand comes out of the toilet bowl with his
sunglasses.

DUDE

Oh, man. Don't do--

BLOND MAN

You see what happens? You see what
happens, Lebowski?

The Dude puts on his dripping sunglasses.

DUDE

Look, nobody calls me Lebowski. You
got the wrong guy. I'm the Dude,
man.

BLOND MAN

Your name is Lebowski. Your wife is
Bunny.

DUDE

Bunny? Look, moron.

He holds up his hands.

DUDE

You see a wedding ring? Does this place look like I'm fucking married? All my plants are dead!

a
superstitious
The blond man stoops to unzip the satchel. He pulls out a bowling ball and examines it in the manner of a native.

BLOND MAN

The fuck is this?

lights
The Dude pats at his pockets, takes out a joint and it.

DUDE

Obviously you're not a golfer.

The blond man drops the ball which pulverizes more tile.

BLOND MAN

Woo?

The Chinese man is zipping his fly.

WOO

Yeah?

BLOND MAN

Wasn't this guy supposed to be a millionaire?

WOO

Uh?

They both look around.

WOO

Fuck.

BLOND MAN

What do you think?

WOO

He looks like a fuckin' loser.

finger
The Dude pulls his sunglasses down his nose with one and peeks over them.

DUDE

Hey. At least I'm housebroken.

The two men look at each other. They turn to leave.

WOO
Fuckin' waste of time.

The blond man turns testily at the door.

BLOND MAN
Thanks a lot, asshole.

ON THE DOOR SLAM WE CUT

TO:

BOWLING PINS

Scattered by a strike.

pins

Music and head credits play over various bowling shots--
flying, bowlers hoisting balls, balls gliding down lanes,
sliding feet, graceful releases, ball return spinning up

a

ball, fingers sliding into fingerholes, etc.

distant

The music turns into boomy source music, coming from a
jukebox, as the credits end over a clattering strike.

ponytail

A lanky blonde man with stringy hair tied back in a
turns from the strike to walk back to the bench.

MAN
Hot damn, I'm throwin' rocks tonight.
Mark it, Dude.

man

We are tracking in on the circular bench towards a big
nursing a large plastic cup of Bud. He has dark worried
eyes and a goatee. Hairy legs emerge from his khaki

shorts.

He also wears a khaki army surplus shirt with the sleeves
cut off over an old bowling shirt. This is Walter. He
squints through the smoke from his own cigarette as he
addresses the Dude at the scoring table.

The Dude, also holding a large plastic cup of Bud, wears
some of its foam on his mustache.

WALTER
This was a valued rug.

He elaborately clears his throat.

WALTER
This was, uh--

DUDE
Yeah man, it really tied the room
together--

WALTER
This was a valued, uh.

Walter. Donny, the strike-scoring bowler, enters and sits next

DONNY
What tied the room together, Dude?

WALTER
Were you listening to the story,
Donny?

DONNY
What--

WALTER
Were you listening to the Dude's
story?

DONNY
I was bowling--

WALTER
So you have no frame of reference,
Donny. You're like a child who
wanders in in the middle of a movie
and wants to know--

DUDE
What's your point, Walter?

WALTER
There's no fucking reason--here's my
point, Dude--there's no fucking reason--

DONNY
Yeah Walter, what's your point?

WALTER
Huh?

DUDE
What's the point of--we all know who
was at fault, so what the fuck are
you talking about?

WALTER
Huh? No! What the fuck are you
talking--I'm not--we're talking about
unchecked aggression here--

DONNY
What the fuck is he talking about?

DUDE
My rug.

WALTER
Forget it, Donny. You're out of
your element.

DUDE

This Chinaman who peed on my rug, I can't go give him a bill so what the fuck are you talking about?

WALTER

What the fuck are you talking about?! This Chinaman is not the issue! I'm talking about drawing a line in the sand, Dude. Across this line you do not, uh--and also, Dude, Chinaman is not the preferred, uh. . . Asian-American. Please.

DUDE

Walter, this is not a guy who built the rail-roads, here, this is a guy who peed on my--

WALTER

What the fuck are you--

DUDE

Walter, he peed on my rug--

DONNY

He peed on the Dude's rug--

WALTER

YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR ELEMENT! This Chinaman is not the issue, Dude.

DUDE

So who--

WALTER

Jeff Lebowski. Come on. This other Jeffrey Lebowski. The millionaire. He's gonna be easier to find anyway than these two, uh. these two . . . And he has the wealth, uh, the resources obviously, and there is no reason, no FUCKING reason, why his wife should go out and owe money and they pee on your rug. Am I wrong?

DUDE

No, but--

WALTER

Am I wrong!

DUDE

Yeah, but--

WALTER

Okay. That, uh.

He elaborately clears his throat.

That rap really tied the room together, did it not?

DUDE

Fuckin' A.

DONNY

And this guy peed on it.

WALTER

Donny! Please!

DUDE

Yeah, I could find this Lebowski guy--

DONNY

His name is Lebowski? That's your name, Dude!

DUDE

Yeah, this is the guy, this guy should compensate me for the fucking rug. I mean his wife goes out and owes money and they pee on my rug.

WALTER

Thaaat's right Dude; they pee on your fucking Rug.

CLOSE ON A PLAQUE

We pull back from the name JEFFREY LEBOWSKI engraved in silver International, to reveal that the plaque, from Variety Clubs honors Lebowski as ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR.

Reflected in the plaque we see the Dude entering the room with a YOUNG MAN. We hear the two men talk:

YOUNG MAN

And this is the study. You can see the various commendations, honorary degrees, et cetera.

DUDE

Yes, uh, very impressive.

YOUNG MAN

Please, feel free to inspect them.

DUDE

I'm not really, uh.

YOUNG MAN

Please! Please!

DUDE

Uh-huh.

We are panning the walls, looking at various citations and certificates unrelated to the ones being discussed

offscreen:

YOUNG MAN

That's the key to the city of Pasadena, which Mr. Lebowski was given two years ago in recognition of his various civic, uh.

DUDE

Uh-huh.

YOUNG MAN

That's a Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce Business Achiever award, which is given--not necessarily given every year! Given only when there's a worthy, somebody especially--

DUDE

Hey, is this him with Nancy?

YOUNG MAN

That is indeed Mr. Lebowski with the first lady, yes, taken when--

DUDE

Lebowski on the right?

YOUNG MAN

Of course, Mr. Lebowski on the right, Mrs. Reagan on the left, taken when--

DUDE

He's handicapped, huh?

YOUNG MAN

Mr. Lebowski is disabled, yes. And this picture was taken when Mrs. Reagan was first lady of the nation, yes, yes? Not of California.

DUDE

Far out.

YOUNG MAN

And in fact he met privately with the President, though unfortunately there wasn't time for a photo opportunity.

DUDE

Nancy's pretty good.

YOUNG MAN

Wonderful woman. We were very--

DUDE

Are these.

YOUNG MAN

These are Mr. Lebowski's children,

so to speak--

DUDE
Different mothers, huh?

YOUNG MAN
No, they--

DUDE
I guess he's pretty, uh, racially
pretty cool--

YOUNG MAN
They're not his, heh-heh, they're
not literally his children; they're
the Little Lebowski Urban Achievers,
inner-city children of promise but
without the--

DUDE
I see.

YOUNG MAN
--without the means for higher
education, so Mr. Lebowski has
committed to sending all of them
to college.

DUDE
Jeez. Think he's got room for one
more?

YOUNG MAN
One--oh! Heh-heh. You never went
to college?

DUDE
Well, yeah I did, but I spent most
of my time occupying various, um,
administration buildings--

YOUNG MAN
Heh-heh--

DUDE
--smoking thai-stick, breaking into
the ROTC--

YOUNG MAN
Yes, heh--

DUDE
--and bowling. I'll tell you the
truth, Brandt, I don't remember most
of it.--Jeez! Fuck me!

framed

Our continuing track and pan have brought us onto a
Life Magazine cover which is headlined ARE YOU A LEBOWSKI
ACHIEVER? Oddly, the Dude's sunglasses face is on it; we
realize that, under the magazine's logo and headline, the

display is mirrored.

Dude,
We hear the door open and the whine of a motor. The
wearing shorts and a bowling shirt, turns to look.
He
So does Brandt, the young man we've been listening to.
groin.
wears a suit and has his hands clasped in front of his

Entering the room is a fat sixtyish man in a motorized
wheelchair--Jeff Lebowski.

LEBOWSKI

Okay sir, you're a Lebowski, I'm a
Lebowski, that's terrific, I'm very
busy so what can I do for you?

him
He wheels himself behind a desk. The Dude sits facing
as Brandt withdraws.

DUDE

Well sir, it's this rug I have, really
tied the room together-

LEBOWSKI

You told Brandt on the phone, he
told me. So where do I fit in?

DUDE

Well they were looking for you, these
two guys, they were trying to--

LEBOWSKI

I'll say it again, all right? You
told Brandt. He told me. I know
what happened. Yes? Yes?

DUDE

So you know they were trying to piss
on your rug--

LEBOWSKI

Did I urinate on your rug?

DUDE

You mean, did you personally come
and pee on my--

LEBOWSKI

Hello! Do you speak English? Parla
usted Inglese? I'll say it again.
Did I urinate on your rug?

DUDE

Well no, like I said, Woo peed on
the rug--

LEBOWSKI

Hello! Hello! So every time--I just want to understand this, sir-- every time a rug is micturated upon in this fair city, I have to compensate the--

DUDE

Come on, man, I'm not trying to scam anybody here, I'm just--

LEBOWSKI

You're just looking for a handout like every other--are you employed, Mr. Lebowski?

DUDE

Look, let me explain something. I'm not Mr. Lebowski; you're Mr. Lebowski. I'm the Dude. So that's what you call me. That, or Duder. His Dudeness. Or El Duderino, if, you know, you're not into the whole brevity thing--

LEBOWSKI

Are you employed, sir?

DUDE

Employed?

LEBOWSKI

You don't go out and make a living dressed like that in the middle of a weekday.

DUDE

Is this a--what day is this?

LEBOWSKI

But I do work, so if you don't mind--

DUDE

No, look. I do mind. The Dude minds. This will not stand, ya know, this will not stand, man. I mean, if your wife owes--

LEBOWSKI

My wife is not the issue here. I hope that my wife will someday learn to live on her allowance, which is ample, but if she doesn't, sir, that will be her problem, not mine, just as your rug is your problem, just as every bum's lot in life is his own responsibility regardless of whom he chooses to blame. I didn't blame anyone for the loss of my legs, some chinaman in Korea took them from me but I went out and achieved anyway. I can't solve your problems, sir,

only you can.

The Dude rises.

DUDE

Ah fuck it.

LEBOWSKI

Sure! Fuck it! That's your answer!
Tattoo it on your forehead! Your
answer to everything!

The Dude is heading for the door.

LEBOWSKI

Your "revolution" is over, Mr.
Lebowski! Condolences! The bums
lost!

As the Dude opens the door.

LEBOWSKI

...My advice is, do what your parents
did! Get a job, sir! The bums will
always lose-- do you hear me,
Lebowski? THE BUMS WILL ALWAYS--

find
The Dude shuts the door on the old man's bellowing to
himself--

HALLWAY

--in a high coffered hallway. Brandt
is approaching.

BRANDT

How was your meeting, Mr. Lebowski?

DUDE

Okay. The old man told me to take
any rug in the house.

WALKWAY

down
swimming
A houseman with a rolled-up carpet on one shoulder goes
a stone walk that winds through the back lawn, past a
pool to a garage. Brandt and the Dude follow.

BRANDT

Manolo will load it into your car
for you, uh, Dude.

DUDE

It's the LeBaron.

DUDE'S POINT OF VIEW

her
Tracking toward the pool. A young woman sits facing it,

back to us, leaning forward to paint her toenails.

the
Beyond her a black form floats in an inflatable chair in
pool.

BRANDT

Well, enjoy, and perhaps we'll see
you again some time, Dude.

DUDE

Yeah sure, if I'm ever in the
neighborhood, need to use the john.

CLOSER TRACK

the
Arcing around the woman's foot as she finishes painting
nails emerald green.

THE DUDE

Looking.

WIDER

The young woman looks up at him. She is in her early
twenties.

She leans back and extends her leg toward the Dude.

YOUNG WOMAN

Blow on them.

over
The Dude pulls his sunglasses down his nose and peeks
them.

DUDE

Huh?

She waggles her foot and giggles.

YOUNG WOMAN

G'ahead. Blow.

The Dude tentatively grabs hold of her extended foot.

DUDE

You want me to blow on your toes?

YOUNG WOMAN

Uh-huh. . . I can't blow that far.

The Dude looks over at the pool.

DUDE

You sure he won't mind?

He
The man bobbing in the inflatable chair is passed out.

He
open,

is thin, in his thirties, with long stringy blond hair.
wears black leather pants and a black leather jacket,
shirtless, exposing fine blond chest hair and pale skin.
One arm trails off into the water; next to it, an empty
whiskey bottle bobs.

YOUNG WOMAN

Dieter doesn't care about anything.
He's a nihilist.

DUDE

Practicing?

The young woman smiles.

YOUNG WOMAN

You're not blowing.

Brandt nervously takes the Dude by the elbow.

BRANDT

Our guest has to be getting along,
Mrs. Lebowski.

The Dude grudgingly allows himself to be led away, still
looking at the young woman.

DUDE

You're Bunny?

BUNNY

I'll suck your cock for a thousand
dollars.

Brandt releases a gale of forced laughter:

BRANDT

Ha-ha-ha-ha! Wonderful woman. Very
free-spirited. We're all very fond
of her.

BUNNY

Brandt can't watch though. Or he
has to pay a hundred.

BRANDT

Ha-ha-ha-ha-ha! That's marvelous.

his
He continues to lead away the Dude, who looks back over

SHOULDER:

DUDE

I'm just gonna find a cash machine.

BOWLING PINS

Scattered by a strike.

THE BOWLERS

Donny calls out from the bench:

DONNY
Grasshopper Dude--They're dead in
the water!!

As the Dude walks back to the scoring table he turns to
another team in black bowling shirts--the Cavaliers--that
shares the lane.

DUDE
Your maples, Carl.

Walter, just arriving, is carrying a leatherette satchel
in one hand and a large plastic carrier in the other.

WALTER
Way to go, Dude. If you will it, it
is no dream.

DUDE
You're fucking twenty minutes late.
What the fuck is that?

WALTER
Theodore Herzel.

DUDE
Huh?

WALTER
State of Israel. If you will it,
Dude, it is no--

DUDE
What the fuck're you talking about?
The carrier. What's in the fucking
carrier?

WALTER
Huh? Oh--Cynthia's Pomeranian.
Can't leave him home alone or he
eats the furniture.

DUDE
What the fuck are you--

WALTER
I'm saying, Cynthia's Pomeranian.
I'm looking after it while Cynthia
and Marty Ackerman are in Hawaii.

DUDE
You brought a fucking Pomeranian
bowling?

WALTER

What do you mean "brought it bowling"?
I didn't rent it shoes. I'm not
buying it a fucking beer. He's not
gonna take your fucking turn, Dude.

He lets the small yapping dog out of the carrier. It
scoots
around the bowling table, sniffing at bowlers and wagging
its tail.

DUDE

Hey, man, if my fucking ex-wife asked
me to take care of her fucking dog
while she and her boyfriend went to
Honolulu, I'd tell her to go fuck
herself. Why can't she board it?

WALTER

First of all, Dude, you don't have
an ex, secondly, it's a fucking show
dog with fucking papers. You can't
board it. It gets upset, its hair
falls out.

DUDE

Hey man--

WALTER

Fucking dog has papers, Dude.--Over
the line!

Smokey turns from his last roll to look at Walter.

WALTER

Smokey Huh?

WALTER

Over the line, Smokey! I'm sorry.
That's a foul.

SMOKEY

Bullshit. Eight, Dude.

WALTER

Excuse me! Mark it zero. Next frame.

SMOKEY

Bullshit. Walter!

WALTER

This is not Nam. This is bowling.
There are rules.

DUDE

Come on Walter, it's just--it's
Smokey. So his toe slipped over a
little, it's just a game.

WALTER

This is a league game. This
determines who enters the next round-

robin, am I wrong?

SMOKEY
Yeah, but--

WALTER
Am I wrong!?

SMOKEY
Yeah, but I wasn't over. Gimme the
marker, Dude, I'm marking it an
eight.

Walter takes out a gun.

WALTER
Smokey my friend, you're entering a
world of pain.

DUDE
Hey Walter--

WALTER
Mark that frame an eight, you're
entering a world of pain.

SMOKEY
I'm not--

WALTER
A world of pain.

a
A manager in a bowling-shirt style uniform is running for
phone.

SMOKEY
Look Dude, I don't hold with this.
This guy is your partner, you should--

Walter primes the gun and points it at his head.

WALTER
HAS THE WHOLE WORLD GONE CRAZY? AM
I THE ONLY ONE HERE WHO GIVES A SHIT
ABOUT THE RULES? MARK IT ZERO!

making
The Pomeranian is excitedly yapping at Walter's elbow,
high body-twisting tail-wagging leaps.

DUDE
Walter, they're calling the cops,
put the piece away.

WALTER
MARK IT ZERO!

SMOKEY
Walter--

WALTER
YOU THINK I'M FUCKING AROUND HERE?
MARK IT ZERO!!

SMOKEY
All right! There it is! It's fucking
zero!

lane. He points frantically at the score projected above the

SMOKEY
You happy, you crazy fuck?

WALTER
This is a league game, Smokey!

PARKING LOT

Pomeranian Walter and the Dude walk to the Dude's car. The
trots happily behind Walter who totes the empty carrier.

DUDE
Walter, you can't do that. These
guys're like me, they're pacifists.
Smokey was a conscientious objector.

WALTER
You know Dude, I myself dabbled with
pacifism at one point. Not in Nam,
of course--

DUDE
And you know Smokey has emotional
problems!

WALTER
You mean--beyond pacifism?

DUDE
He's fragile, man! He's very fragile!

As the two men get into the car:

WALTER
Huh. I did not know that. Well,
it's water under the bridge. And we
do enter the next round-robin, am I
wrong?

DUDE
No, you're not wrong--

WALTER
Am I wrong!

DUDE
You're not wrong, Walter, you're
just an asshole.

lot.

They watch a squad car take a squealing turn into the

WALTER

Okay then. We play Quintana and O'Brien next week. They'll be pushovers.

DUDE

Just, just take it easy, Walter.

WALTER

That's your answer to everything, Dude. And let me point out--pacifism is not--look at our current situation with that camelfucker in Iraq--pacifism is not something to hide behind.

DUDE

Well, just take 't easy, man.

WALTER

I'm perfectly calm, Dude.

DUDE

Yeah? Wavin' a gun around?!

WALTER

(smugly)

Calmer than you are.

-his irritates the Dude further.

DUDE

Just take it easy, man!

Walter is still smug.

WALTER

Calmer than you are.

DUDE'S HOUSE

beat-

A large, brilliant Persian rug lies beneath the Dude's up old furniture.

mixing

At the table next to the answering machine the Dude is kalhua, rum and milk.

VOICE

Dude, this is Smokey. Look, I don't wanna be a hard-on about this, and I know it wasn't your fault, but I just thought it was fair to tell you that Gene and I will be submitting this to the League and asking them to set aside the round. Or maybe forfeit it to us--

DUDE

Shit!

VOICE

--so, like I say, just thought, you know, fair warning. Tell Walter.

A beep.

ANOTHER VOICE

Mr. Lebowski, this is Brandt at, uh, well--at Mr. Lebowski's office. Please call us as soon as is convenient.

Beep.

ANOTHER VOICE

Mr. Lebowski, this is Fred Dynarski with the Southern Cal Bowling League. I just got a, an informal report, uh, that a uh, a member of your team, uh, Walter Sobchak, drew a loaded weapon during league play--

We hear the doorbell.

THE DOOR

balding
jeans.

It swings open to reveal a short, hairy, muscular but middle-aged man in a black T-shirt and black cut-off

DUDE

Hiya Allan.

ALLAN

Dude, I finally got the venue I wanted. I'm Performing my dance quintet--you know, my cycle--at Crane Jackson's Fountain Street Theatre on Tuesday night, and I'd love it if you came and gave me notes.

The Dude takes a swig of his kalhua.

DUDE

Sure Allan, I'll be there.

ALLAN

Dude, uh, tomorrow is already the tenth.

DUDE

Yeah, yeah I know. Okay.

ALLAN

Just, uh, just slip the rent under my door.

DUDE

Yeah, okay.

BACK IN THE LIVING ROOM

The voice continues on the machine.

VOICE

--serious infraction, and examine
your standing. Thank you. Beep.

VOICE

Mr. Lebowski, Brandt again. Please
do call us when you get in and I'll
send the limo. Let me assure you--I
hope you're not avoiding this call
because of the rug, which, I assure
you, is not a problem. We need your
help and, uh--well we would very
much like to see you. Thank you.
It's Brandt.

TRACKING

We are pushing Brandt down the high-ceilinged hallway.
Distantly, we hear a dolorous soprano. Brandt talks back
over

HIS SHOULDER:

BRANDT

We've had some terrible news. Mr.
Lebowski is in seclusion in the West
Wing.

DUDE

Huh.

music

Brandt throws open a pair of heavy double doors. The
washes over us as we enter a great study where Jeffrey
Lebowski, a blanket thrown over his knees, stares

hauntedly

into a fire, listening to Lohengrin.

BRANDT ANNOUNCES, AMBIGUOUSLY:

BRANDT

Mr. Lebowski.

around.

Jeffrey Lebowski waves the Dude in without looking

LEBOWSKI

It's funny. I can look back on a
life of achievement, on challenges
met, competitors bested, obstacles
overcome. I've accomplished more
than most men, and without the use
of my legs. What. . . What makes a

man, Mr. Lebowski?

DUDE

Dude.

LEBOWSKI

Huh?

DUDE

I don't know, sir.

LEBOWSKI

Is it. . . is it, being prepared to do the right thing? Whatever the price? Isn't that what makes a man?

DUDE

Sure. That and a pair of testicles.

lost
Lebowski turns away from the Dude with a haunted stare,
in thought.

LEBOWSKI

You're joking. But perhaps you're right.

The Dude thumps at his chest pocket.

DUDE

Mind if I smoke a jay?

LEBOWSKI

Bunny.

on
He turns back around and the firelight shows teartracks
his cheeks.

DUDE

'Scuse me?

LEBOWSKI

Bunny Lebowski. . . She is the light of my life. Are you surprised at my tears, sir?

DUDE

Fuckin' A.

LEBOWSKI

Strong men also cry. . . Strong men also cry.

He clears his throat.

LEBOWSKI

I received this fax this morning.

and
Brandt hastily pulls a flimsy sheet from his clipboard

hands it to the Dude.

LEBOWSKI

As you can see, it is a ransom note.
Sent by cowards. Men who are unable
to achieve on a level field of play.
Men who will not sign their names.
Weaklings. Bums.

THE DUDE EXAMINES THE FAX:

NON-
STUFF.

WE HAVE BUNNY. GATHER ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN UNMARKED
CONSECUTIVE TWENTIES. AWAIT INSTRUCTIONS. NO FUNNY

DUDE

Bummer.

Lebowski looks soulfully at the Dude.

LEBOWSKI

Brandt will fill you in on the
details.

fire.
the

He wheels his chair around to once again gaze into the
Brandt tugs at the Dude's shirt and points him back to
hall.

HALLWAY

voice

The soprano's singing is once again faint. Brandt's
is hushed:

BRANDT

Mr. Lebowski is prepared to make a
generous offer to you to act as
courier once we get instructions for
the money.

DUDE

Why me, man?

BRANDT

He suspects that the culprits might
be the very people who, uh, soiled
your rug, and you're in a unique
position to confirm or, uh, disconfirm
that suspicion.

DUDE

So he thinks it's the carpet-pissers,
huh?

BRANDT

Well Dude, we just don't know.

BOWLING PINS

CRASH--scattered by a strike, in slow motion.

WIDER

of
displaying
stretch

Still in slow motion. We are looking across the length
the bowling alley at a tall, thin, Hispanic bowler
perfect form. He wears an all-in-one dacron-polyester
bowling outfit with a racing stripe down each side.

FAST TRACK IN

On the Dude, sitting next to Walter in the molded plastic
chairs. The Dude is staring off towards the bowler.

DUDE

Fucking Quintana--that creep can
roll, man--

BACK TO THE BOWLER

Walter's

Displaying great slow-motion form as the Dude and
conversation continues over.

WALTER

Yeah, but he's a fucking pervert,
Dude.

DUDE

Huh?

WALTER

The man is a sex offender. With a
record. Spent six months in Chino
for exposing himself to an eight-
year-old.

FLASHBACK

zinging

We see Quintana, in pressed jeans and a stretchy sweater,
walking up a stoop in a residential neighborhood and
the bell.

The VOICE-OVER conversation continues.

DUDE

Huh.

WALTER

When he moved down to Venice he had
to go door-to-door to tell everyone
he's a pederast.

The door swings open and a beer-swilling middle-aged man
looks dully out at Quintana, who looks hesitantly up.

DONNY
What's a pederast, Walter?

WALTER
Shut the fuck up, Donny.

PINS
scattered by a strike.

QUINTANA
wheeling and thrusting a black gloved fist into the air.
Stitched above the breast pocket of his all-in-one is his
first name, "Jesus".

BACK TO WALTER AND THE DUDE
They have been joined by Donny.

WALTER
Anyway. How much they offer you?

DUDE
Twenty grand. And of course I still
keep the rug.

WALTER
Just for making the hand-off?

DUDE
Yeah.

He slips a little black box out of his shirt pocket.

DUDE
...They gave Dude a beeper, so
whenever these guys call--

WALTER
What if it's during a game?

DUDE
I told him if it was during league
play--

Donny has been watching Quintana.

DONNY
If what's during league play?

WALTER
Life does not stop and start at your
convenience, you miserable piece of
shit.

DONNY
What's wrong with Walter, Dude?

DUDE

I figure it's easy money, it's all pretty harmless. I mean she probably kidnapped herself.

WALTER

Huh?

DONNY

What do you mean, Dude?

DUDE

Rug-peers did not do this. I mean look at it. Young trophy wife. Marries a guy for money but figures he isn't giving her enough. She owes money all over town--

WALTER

That...fucking...bitch!

DUDE

It's all a goddamn fake. Like Lenin said, look for the person who will benefit. And you will, uh, you know, you'll, uh, you know what I'm trying to say--

DONNY

I am the Walrus.

WALTER

That fucking bitch!

DUDE

Yeah.

DONNY

I am the Walrus.

WALTER

Shut the fuck up, Donny! V.I. Lenin! Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov!

DONNY

What the fuck is he talking about?

WALTER

That's fucking exactly what happened, Dude! That makes me fucking SICK!

DUDE

Yeah, well, what do you care, Walter?

DONNY

Yeah Dude, why is Walter so pissed off?

WALTER

Those rich fucks! This whole fucking thing-- I did not watch my buddies die face down in the muck so that

this fucking strumpet--

DUDE

I don't see any connection to Vietnam, Walter.

WALTER

Well, there isn't a literal connection, Dude.

DUDE

Walter, face it, there isn't any connection. It's your roll.

WALTER

Have it your way. The point is--

DUDE

It's your roll--

WALTER

The fucking point is--

DUDE

It's your roll.

VOICE

Are you ready to be fucked, man?

They both look up.

of
the
hair.

Quintana, on his way out, looks down at them from the lip
the lanes. Over his polyester all-in-one he now wears a
windbreaker with a racing stripe and "Jesus" stitched on
breast. He is holding a fancy black-and-red leather ball
satchel (perhaps a Sylvia Wein). Behind him stands his
partner, O'Brien, a short fat Irishman with tufted red

QUINTANA

I see you rolled your way into the semis. Deos mio, man. Seamus and me, we're gonna fuck you up.

DUDE

Yeah well, that's just, ya know, like, your opinion, man.

Quintana looks at Walter.

QUINTANA

Let me tell you something, bendeco. You pull any your crazy shit with us, you flash a piece out on the lanes, I'll take it away from you and stick it up your ass and pull the fucking trigger til it goes "click".

DUDE

Jesus.

QUINTANA

You said it, man. Nobody fucks with the Jesus.

Jesus walks away. Walter nods sadly.

WALTER

Eight-year-olds, Dude.

DUDE'S BUNGALOW

We are looking down at the Dude who is prone on the rug. His eyes are closed. He wears a Walkman headset.

Leaking

tinnily through the headphones we can just hear an intermittent clatter.

In his outflung hand lies a cassette case labeled VENICE BEACH LEAGUE PLAYOFFS 1987.

hall

The Dude absently licks his lips as we faintly hear a rumbling down the lane. On its impact with the pins, the Dude opens his eyes.

He screams.

towards

A blonde woman looms over him. Next to her a young man in paint-spattered denims stoops and swings something the carrier.

The sap catches the Dude on the chin and sends his head thunking back onto the rug.

hear

A million stars explode against a field of black. We the "La-la-la-la" of The Man in Me.

rug.

The black field dissolves into the pattern of the

of

The rug rolls away to reveal an aerial view of the city Los Angeles at twilight, moving below us at great speed.

his

The Dude is flying over the city, his arms thrown out in front of him, the wind whipping his hair and billowing bowling shirt. He looks up.

the

Ahead the mysterious blonde woman wings away, riding on Dude's rug like a sheik on a magic carpet. She is us, growing smaller.

outpacing

notices

The Dude does a couple of lazy crawl strokes and then

that a bowling ball has materialized in his forward hand. His bemusement turns to concern over the aerodynamic implications just as the ball seems to suddenly assume weight, abruptly snapping his arm down, and him after it. He is falling. From a high angle we see the Dude hurtling toward the city, dragged by the ball.

A reverse looking up shows the Dude hurtling toward us out of the inky sky, his eyes wide with horror. Led by the bowling ball, he zooms past the camera leaving us in black.

We hear a distant rumble, like thunder. Dull reflections materialize in the darkness. They are glints off the shiny surface of an oncoming bowling ball.

We pull back to reveal that the blackness was the inside of a ball return, and the gleaming bowling ball is being regurgitated up at us, overtaking us.

The Dude looks up, up, up at the looming ball, its mass rolling a huge shadow across his face.

The gleaming ball shows three dead black holes rolling toward us --finger holes.

The largest--thumb--hole rolls directly over us, engulfing us once again in black..

The black rolls away and we are spinning--spinning down a bowling lane--our point of view that of someone trapped in the thumbhole of the rolling ball.

We see the receding bowler spinning away. It is the blonde woman, performing her follow-through.

Floor spins up at us and then away; ceiling spins up and away; the length of the alley with pins at the end; floor; ceiling; approaching pins; again and again.

We hit the pins and clatter into blackness. We hear pins spin, hit each other and drop.

We hear an irritating, insistent beeping.

FADE IN

We are close on the Dude, upside down. As the picture fades

is in the bowling noises continue, but filtered and faint. They come from the Dude's Walkman, the headset of which now askew, with one arm off his ear.

As the Dude opens his eyes we spiral slowly upward to put him right side around. His head is now resting against hardwood floor, not rug.

DUDE

Oh man.

the He raises himself onto his elbows and massages red lump on his jaw. The beeper on his belt is blinking red in sync with the continuing irritating beeps.

WIDE ON THE ROOM

is An end table is upset, but otherwise the furniture in place. The rug is gone.

continue. The Dude looks around. The bowling sounds The beeps continue.

The phone starts to jangle.

TRACK

a We push Brandt down the familiar marble hallway. Again there is a distant aria. Brandt throws out wrist to look at his watch.

BRANDT

They called about eighty minutes ago. They want you to take the money and drive north on the 4 5. They'll call you on the portable phone with instructions in about forty minutes. One person only or I'd go with you. They were very clear on that: one person only. What happened to your jaw?

DUDE

Oh, nothin', you know.

key They have reached the little desk outside of the big Lebowski's office; Brandt opens its bottom drawer with a and takes out an attache case. He hands this to the Dude along with a cellular phone in a battery-pack carrying case.

BRANDT

Here's the money, and the phone. Please, Dude, follow whatever

instructions they give.

DUDE

Uh-huh.

BRANDT

Her life is in your hands.

DUDE

Oh, man, don't say that..

BRANDT

Mr. Lebowski asked me to repeat that:
Her life is in your hands.

DUDE

Shit.

BRANDT

Her life is in your hands, Dude.
And report back to us as soon as
it's done.

DUDE'S CAR

through
the
look
door

We pan off the Dude, driving, to his point of view
the front windshield. The headlights play over Walter
standing waiting in front of the storefront of SOBCHAK
SECURITY. Though he is wearing khaki shorts and shirt,
fact that he holds a battered brown briefcase makes him
oddly like a commuter. He also holds an irregular shape
bundled in brown wrapping paper.
The car stops in front of him and he opens the Dude's
and hands in the briefcase.

WALTER

Take the ringer. I'll drive.

The Dude takes the briefcase and slides over.

DUDE

The what?

WALTER

The ringer! The ringer, Dude! Have
they called yet?

it

The Dude opens the briefcase and paws bemusedly through
as the car starts rolling.

DUDE

What the hell is this?

WALTER

My dirty undies. Laundry, Dude.

The whites.

DUDE

Agh--

He closes the briefcase.

DUDE

Walter, I'm sure there's a reason
you brought your dirty undies--

WALTER

Thaaaat's right, Dude. The weight.
The ringer can't look empty.

DUDE

Walter--what the fuck are you
thinking?

WALTER

Well you're right, Dude, I got to
thinking. I got to thinking why
should we settle for a measly fucking
twenty grand--

DUDE

We? What the fuck we? You said you
just wanted to come along--

WALTER

My point, Dude, is why should we
settle for twenty grand when we can
keep the entire million. Am I wrong?

DUDE

Yes you're wrong. This isn't a
fucking game, Walter--

WALTER

It is a fucking game. You said so
yourself, Dude--she kidnapped herself--

DUDE '

Yeah, but--

The phone chirps. Dude grabs it.

DUDE

Dude here.

VOICE

(German accent)

Who is this?

DUDE

Dude the Bagman. Where do you want
us to go?

VOICE

...Us?

DUDE

Shit. . . Uh, yeah, you know, me and the driver. I'm not handling the money and driving the car and talking on the phone all by my fucking--

VOICE
Shut the fuck up.
(Beat)
Hello?

DUDE
Yeah?

VOICE
Okay, listen--

Walter looks over at the Dude and bellows:

WALTER
Dude, are you fucking this up?

VOICE
Who is that?

DUDE
The driver man, I told you--

Click. Dial tone.

DUDE
Oh shit. Walter.

WALTER
What the fuck is going on there?

DUDE
They hung up, Walter! You fucked it up! You fucked it up! Her life was in our hands!

WALTER
Easy, Dude.

DUDE
We're screwed now! We don't get shit and they're gonna kill her! We're fucked, Walter!

WALTER
Dude, nothing is fucked. Come on. You're being very unDude. They'll call back. Look, she kidnapped her--

The phone chirps.

WALTER
Ya see? Nothing is fucked up here, Dude. Nothing is fucked. These guys are fucking amateurs--

DUDE

Shutup, Walter! Don't fucking say
peep when I'm doing business here.

WALTER
(patronizing)
Okay Dude. Have it your way.

The Dude unclips the phone from the battery pack.

WALTER
But they're amateurs.

The Dude glares at Walter. Into the phone:

DUDE
Dude here.

VOICE
Okay, vee proceed. But only if there
is no funny stuff.

DUDE
Yeah.

VOICE
So no funny stuff. Okay?

DUDE
Hey, just tell me where the fuck you
want us to go.

A HIGHWAY SIGN: SIMI VALLEY ROAD

It flashes by in the headlights of the roaring car.

DUDE
That was the sign.

Walter wrestles the car onto the two-lane road.

WALTER
Yeah. So as long as we get her back,
nobody's in a position to complain.
And we keep the baksheesh.

DUDE
Terrific, Walter. But you haven't
told me how we get her back. Where
is she?

WALTER
That's the simple part, Dude. When
we make the handoff, I grab the guy
and beat it out of him.

He looks at the Dude.

WALTER
...Huh?

DUDE

Yeah. That's a great plan, Walter.
That's fucking ingenious, if I
understand it correctly. That's a
Swiss fucking watch.

WALTER
Thaaat's right, Dude. The beauty of
this is its simplicity. If the plan
gets too complex something always
goes wrong. If there's one thing I
learned in Nam--

The phone chirps.

DUDE
Dude.

VOICE
You are approaching a vooden britch.
When you cross it you srow ze bag
from ze left vindow of ze moving
kar. Do not slow down. Vee vatch
you.

Click. Dial tone.

DUDE
FUCK.

WALTER
What'd he say? Where's the hand-
off?

DUDE
There is no fucking hand-off, Walter!
At a wooden bridge we throw the money
out of the car!

WALTER
Huh?

DUDE
We throw the money out of the moving
car!

Walter stares dumbly for a beat.

WALTER
We can't do that, Dude. That fucks
up our plan.

DUDE
Well call them up and explain it to
'em, Walter! Your plan is so fucking
simple, I'm sure they'd fucking
understand it! That's the beauty of
it Walter!

WALTER
Wooden bridge, huh?

DUDE

I'm throwing the money, Walter!
We're not fucking around!

WALTER

The bridge is coming up! Gimme the
ringer, Dude! Chop-chop!

DUDE

Fuck that! I love you, Walter, but
sooner or later you're gonna have to
face the fact that you're a goddamn
moron.

WALTER

Okay, Dude. No time to argue. Here's
the bridge--

bridge.
from
to

There is the bump and new steady of the car on the
The Dude is twisting around to pull the money briefcase
the back seat. Walter reaches one arm across Dude's body
grab the laundry.
And there goes the ringer.
He flings it out the window.

DUDE

Walter!

WALTER

Your wheel, Dude! I'm rolling out!

DUDE

What the fuck?

WALTER

Your wheel! At fifteen em-pee-aitch
I roll out! I double back, grab one
of 'em and beat it out of him! The
uzi!

DUDE

Uzi?

bundle.

Walter points across the seat at the paper-wrapped

WALTER

You didn't think I was rolling out
of here naked!

DUDE

Walter, please--

Walter has flung open his door and is leaning halfway out
over the road.

WALTER
Fifteen! This is it, Dude! Let's
take that hill!

he
Dude,
Walter rolls out with his parcel, giving a loud grunt as
hits the pavement. The car swerves and lurches and the
cursing, takes the wheel.

OUTSIDE

muzzle
Walter tumbles onto the shoulder and--RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT!--
flashes tear open the wrapping paper.

INSIDE THE CAR

The car rocks and the Dude wrestles with the wheel.

OUTSIDE

The car clunks and screams around in a skid.

INSIDE

The Dude is thrown forward as the car hits something.

OUTSIDE

The
saps
As the Dude struggles out holding the satchel of money.
front of his car is crumpled into a tree. The car body
back to the left, where the rear wheel has been shot out.

WALTER is just rising from the ground massaging an
injured knee.

The Dude runs up the road toward the bridge,
frantically waving the satchel in the air.

DUDE
WE HAVE IT! WE HAVE IT!!

onto
There is a distant engine roar. A motorcycle bumps up
the road from the ravine under the bridge and, tires
squealing, skids around to speed away in the opposite
direction. It is closely followed by two more roaring
motorcycles.

DUDE
WE HAVE IT!! . . . We have it!

watching
The Dude and Walter stand in the middle of the road,
the three red tail lights fishtail away.

AFTER A LONG STARING SILENCE:

WALTER

Ahh fuck it, let's go bowling.

BOWLING LANE

A ball rumbles in to scatter ten pins.

WALTER.

of
portable

He turns from the lane to where the Dude sits in the nook
molded plastic chairs. The Dude listlessly holds the
phone in his lap. It is ringing.

WALTER

Aitz chaim he, Dude. As the ex used
to say.

DUDE

What the fuck is that supposed to
mean? What the fuck're we gonna
tell Lebowski?

WALTER

Huh? Oh, him, yeah. Well I don't
see, um-- what exactly is the problem?

The portable phone stops ringing.

DUDE

Huh? The problem is--what do you
mean what's the--there's no--we didn't--
they're gonna kill that poor woman--

WALTER

What the fuck're you talking about?
That poor woman--that poor slut--
kidnapped herself, Dude. You said
so yourself--

DUDE

No, Walter! I said I thought she
kidnapped herself! You're the one
who's so fucking certain--

WALTER

That's right, Dude, 1 % certain--

Donny is trotting excitedly up.

DONNY

They posted the next round of the
tournament--

WALTER

Donny, shut the f--when do we play?

DONNY

This Saturday. Quintana and--

WALTER

Saturday! Well they'll have to reschedule.

DUDE

Walter, what'm I gonna tell Lebowski?

WALTER

I told that fuck down at the league office-- who's in charge of scheduling?

DUDE

Walter--

DONNY

Burkhalter.

WALTER

I told that kraut a fucking thousand times I don't roll on shabbas.

DONNY

It's already posted.

WALTER

WELL THEY CAN FUCKING UN-POST IT!

DUDE

Who gives a shit, Walter? What about that poor woman? What do we tell--

WALTER

C'mon Dude, eventually she'll get sick of her little game and, you know, wander back--

DONNY

How come you don't roll on Saturday, Walter?

WALTER

I'm shomer shabbas.

DONNY

What's that, Walter?

DUDE

Yeah, and in the meantime what do I tell Lebowski?

WALTER

Saturday is shabbas. Jewish day of rest. Means I don't work, I don't drive a car, I don't fucking ride in a car, I don't handle money, I don't turn on the oven, and I sure as shit don't fucking roll!

DONNY

Sheesh.

DUDE

Walter, how--

WALTER

Shomer shabbas.

The Dude gets to his feet with the portable phone.

DUDE

That's it. I'm out of here.

WALTER

For Christ's sake, Dude.

bowling
Walter and Donny join the Dude as he walks out of the
alley.

the
Hell, you just tell him--well, you tell him, uh, we made
hand-off, everything went, uh, you know--

DONNY

Oh yeah, how'd it go?

WALTER

Went alright. Dude's car got a little
dinged up--

DUDE

But Walter, we didn't make the fucking
hand-off! They didn't get, the
fucking money and they're gonna--
they're gonna--

WALTER

Yeah yeah, "kill that poor woman."

He waves both arms as if conducting a symphony orchestra.

WALTER

Kill that poor woman.

DONNY

Walter, if you can't ride in a car,
how d'you get around on Shammass--

WALTER

Really, Dude, you surprise me.
They're not gonna kill shit. They're
not gonna do shit. What can they
do? Fuckin' amateurs. And meanwhile,
look at the bottom line. Who's
sitting on a million fucking dollars?
Am I wrong?

DUDE

Walter--

WALTER

Who's got a fucking million fucking dollars parked in the trunk of our car out here?

DUDE
"Our" car, Walter?

WALTER
And what do they got, Dude? My dirty undies. My fucking whites--Say, where is the car?

out The three bowlers, stopped at the edge of the lot, stare at an empty parking space.

DONNY
Who has your undies, Walter?

WALTER
Where's your car, Dude?

DUDE
You don't know, Walter? You seem to know the answer to everything else!

WALTER
Hmm. Well, we were in a handicapped spot. It, uh, it was probably towed.

DUDE
It's been stolen, Walter! You fucking know it's been stolen!

WALTER
Well, certainly that's a possibility, Dude--

DUDE
Aw, fuck it.

starts The Dude walks away across the lot. The portable phone ringing again.

DONNY
Where you going, Dude?

DUDE
I'm going home, Donny.

DONNY
Your phone's ringing, Dude.

DUDE
Thank you, Donny.

DUDE'S LIVING ROOM

chair, The Dude is slumped disconsolately back in his easy

him
aged,

fingers of one hand cupped over his sunglasses. Facing
on the couch are two uniformed policeman, one middle-
the other a fresh-faced rookie.

chirping.

At the cut the portable phone, in the Dude's lap, is
The Dude waits for the rings to end. When they do:

DUDE
1972 Pontiac LeBaron.

YOUNGER COP
Color?

DUDE
Green. Some brown, or, uh, rust,
coloration.

YOUNGER COP
And was there anything of value in
the car?

DULLY:

DUDE
Huh? Oh. Yeah. Tape deck. Couple
of Creedence tapes. And there was
a, uh. . . my briefcase.

YOUNGER COP
In the briefcase?

DUDE
Papers. Just papers. You know, my
papers. Business papers.

YOUNGER COP
And what do you do, sir?

DUDE
I'm unemployed.

OLDER COP
...Most people, we're working nights,
they offer us coffee.

the

There is silence. Dude continues to stare at a spot on
floor. The older cop stares at him.

DUDE
...Me, I don't drink coffee. But
it's nice when they offer.

AT LENGTH:

DUDE
...Also, my rug was stolen.

YOUNGER COP
Your rug was in the car.

The Dude taps the floor with his foot.

DUDE
No. Here.

YOUNGER COP
Separate incidents?

The Dude stares at the floor.

Silence.

OLDER COP
Snap out of it, son.

The home phone starts ringing--a ring distinct from the chirp of the portable. The Dude makes no move to answer it. Finally the rings stop as an answering machine

kicks

on.

DUDE
You find them much? Stolen cars?

message

Dude's Voice on Machine The Dude's not in. Leave a message after the beep. It takes a minute.

YOUNGER COP
Sometimes. I wouldn't hold out much hope for the tape deck though. Or the Creedence tapes.

DUDE
And the, uh, the briefcase?

Beep.

FEMALE VOICE ON MACHINE
Mr. Lebowski, I'd like to see you. Call when you get home and I'll send a car for you. My name is Maude Lebowski. I'm the woman who took the rug.

Beep. Dial tone.

OLDER COP
Well, I guess we can close the file on that one.

TRACKING FORWARD

downtown

We are moving through the open living area of a large L.A. loft. A huge unfinished canvas, lit by standing industrial lights, dominates one wall. The furnishings

are

brilliant spare given the space. On the floor is the Dude's rug.

Dude, We hear a rumble like an approaching bowling ball. The standing in the middle of the loft, looks into the murky depths of the cavernous space.

pass. Something huge and white hurtles towards the Dude's head. As it roars overhead he ducks, and spins to watch it

the We see the backside of a naked woman in a sling suspended from a ceiling track rumbling over a canvas that lies on floor. She is holding a paint bucket in one hand and a brush in the other, with which she flicks paint down at the canvas.

sneakers The Dude turns again as he hears running footsteps. Two young men in paint-spattered shorts, T-shirts and track reach the sling shortly after it reaches the end of its and haul it back for another push.

VOICE

I'll be with you in a minute, Mr. Lebowski.

She rumbles by in another pass.

All right, we'll do the blue tomorrow. Elfranco. Pedro. Help me down.

naked The two men help Maude out of her sling. She is breasts except for leather harness straps which ring her dominatrix and wrap her thighs and give her something of a look.

Lebowski? Does the female form make you uncomfor- table, Mr.

DUDE

Is that what that's a picture of?

MAUDE

In a sense, yes. Elfranco, my robe. My art has been commended as being strongly vaginal. Which bothers some men. The word itself makes some men uncomfortable. Vagina.

DUDE

Oh yeah?

MAUDE

Yes, they don't like hearing it and find it difficult to say. Whereas without batting an eye a man will refer to his "dick" or his "rod" or his "Johnson".

DUDE

"Johnson"?

MAUDE

Thank you.

This to Elfranco, who has handed her a robe.

father
give.

All right, Mr. Lebowski, let's get down to cases. My
told me he's agreed to let you have the rug, but it was a
gift from me to my late mother, and so was not his to
Now. As for this. . . "kidnapping"--

DUDE

Huh?

MAUDE

Yes, I know about it. And I know that you acted as courier. And let me tell you something: the whole thing stinks to high heaven.

DUDE

Right, but let me explain something about that rug--

MAUDE

Do you like sex, Mr. Lebowski?

DUDE

Excuse me?

MAUDE

Sex. The physical act of love. Coitus. Do you like it?

DUDE

I was talking about my rug.

MAUDE

You're not interested in sex?

DUDE

You mean coitus?

MAUDE

I like it too. It's a male myth about feminists that we hate sex. It can be a natural, zesty enterprise. But unfortunately there are some people--it is called satyriasis in men, nymphomania in women--who engage

in it compulsively and without joy.

DUDE

Oh, no.

MAUDE

Yes Mr. Lebowski, these unfortunate souls cannot love in the true sense of the word. Our mutual acquaintance Bunny is one of these.

DUDE

Listen, Maude, I'm sorry if your stepmother is a nympho, but I don't see what it has to do with--do you have any kalhua?

MAUDE

Take a look at this, sir.

She is aiming a remote at a projection TV. The screen flickers to life. A title card:

JACKIE TREEHORN PRESENTS

SECOND CARD:

KARL HUNGUS

AND

BUNNY LAJOYA

IN

A THIRD CARD:

LOGJAMMIN'

The Dude is at the bar, a bottle of kalhua frozen halfway to his glass.

From the television set we hear a doorbell ring, and then

door opening.

On the TV screen the door opens to reveal a sallow-faced man in blue cover-alls. It is Dieter, the floater in Lebowski's pool.

DIETER

Hello. Nein dizbatcher says zere iss problem mit deine kable.

DUDE

Shit, I know that guy. He's a nihilist.

MAUDE

And you recognize her, of course.

a

The girl answering the door is Bunny Lebowski.

Bunny The TV is in here.

DIETER

Za, okay, I bring mein toolz.

Bunny This is my friend Shari. She just came over to use the shower.

MAUDE

(grimly)

The story is ludicrous.

DIETER

Mein nommen iss Karl. Is hard to verk in zese clozes--

Maude switches off the set.

MAUDE

Lord. You can imagine where it goes from here.

DUDE

He fixes the cable?

MAUDE

Don't be fatuous, Jeffrey. Little matter to me that this woman chose to pursue a career

in pornography, nor that she has been "banging" Jackie Treehorn, to use the parlance of our times. However. I

am

one of two trustees of the Lebowski Foundation, the other being my father. The Foundation takes youngsters from

Watts

and--

DUDE

Shit yeah, the achievers.

MAUDE

Little Lebowski Urban Achievers, yes, and proud we are of all of them. I asked my father about his withdrawal of a million dollars from the Foundation account and he told me about this "abduction", but I tell you it is preposterous. This compulsive

fornicator is taking my father for the proverbial ride.

DUDE

Yeah, but my-

MAUDE

I'm getting to your rug. My father and I don't get along; he doesn't

approve of my lifestyle and, needless to say, I don't approve of his. Still, I hardly wish to make my father's embezzlement a police matter, so I'm proposing that you try to recover the money from the people you delivered it to.

DUDE

Well--sure, I could do that--

MAUDE

If you successfully do so, I will compensate you to the tune of 1% of the recovered sum.

DUDE

A hundred.

MAUDE

Thousand, yes, bones or clams or whatever you call them.

DUDE

Yeah, but what about--

MAUDE

--your rug, yes, well with that money you can buy any number of rugs that don't have sentimental value for me. And I am sorry about that crack on the jaw.

The Dude fingers his jaw, where the lump from the sap has all but disappeared.

DUDE

Oh that's okay, I hardly even--

MAUDE

Here's the name and number of a doctor who will look at it for you. You will receive no bill. He's a good man, and thorough.

DUDE

That's really thoughtful but I--

MAUDE

Please see him, Jeffrey. He's a good man, and thorough.

LIMO

The Dude sits in back holding a White Russian, listening to the chauffeur, a man of about the same age from whose livery cap a ponytail emerges.

DRIVER

--So he says, "My son can't hold a job, my daughter's married to a fuckin' loser, and I got a rash on my ass so bad I can't hardly sit down. But you know me. I can't complain."

THROUGH RASPING LAUGHTER:

DUDE

Fuckin' A, man. I got a rash.
Fuckin' A, man. I gotta tell ya
Tony.

leaves He takes a sip of a freshly-mixed White Russian, which
milk on his mustache.

a I was feeling really shitty earlier in the day, I'd lost
little money, I was down in the dumps.

TONY

Aw, forget about it.

DUDE

Yeah, man! Fuck it! I can't be
worrying about that shit. Life goes
on!

The limo has rolled to a stop. The Dude gets out, still
holding his drink.

TONY

Home sweet home, Mr. L. Who's your
friend in the Volkswagon?

DUDE

Huh?

his His eyes on the rearview mirror, Tony jerks a thumb over
shoulder.

He followed us here.

The Dude turns to look.

HIS POV

the Halfway up the block a Volkswagon bug has pulled over to
curb. In the driver's seat we see a fat man's shape.

THE DUDE

He scowls.

DUDE

When did he-

The Dude is grabbed from behind and muscled away in a

half-

nelson by another uniformed chauffeur.

SECOND CHAUFFEUR

Into the limo, you sonofabitch. No arguments.

As he is frog-marched towards another limo the Dude holds his drink away from his chest and cups a hand underneath

it.

DUDE

Fuck, man! There's a beverage here!

The waiting limo's back door is flung open.

INSIDE

The Dude is shoved in and awkwardly takes a seat facing rear. The door is slammed behind him.

the

LEBOWSKI

Start talking and talk fast you lousy bum!

BRANDT

We've been frantically trying to reach you, Dude.

from

Brandt sits catty-corner from the Dude; directly across the Dude is the big Lebowski, a comforter across his

knees.

LEBOWSKI

Where's my goddamn money, you bum?!

DUDE

Well we--I don't--

LEBOWSKI

They did not receive the money, you nitwit! They did not receive the goddamn money. HER LIFE WAS IN YOUR HANDS!

BRANDT

This is our concern, Dude.

DUDE

No, man, nothing is fucked here--

LEBOWSKI

NOTHING IS FUCKED! THE GODDAMN PLANE HAS CRASHED INTO THE MOUNTAIN!

The Dude takes a hurried sip from his drink.

DUDE

C'mon man, who're you gonna believe?

Those guys are--we dropped off the damn money--

LEBOWSKI

WHAT?!

DUDE

I--the royal we, you know, the editorial--I dropped off the money, exactly as per--Look, I've got certain information, certain things have come to light, and uh, has it ever occurred to you, man, that given the nature of all this new shit, that, uh, instead of running around blaming me, that this whole thing might just be, not, you know, not just such a simple, but uh--you know?

LEBOWSKI

What in God's holy name are you blathering about?

DUDE

I'll tell you what I'm blathering about! I got information--new shit has come to light and--shit, man! She kidnapped herself!

Lebowski stares at him, dumbstruck. The Dude is encouraged.

DUDE

Well sure, look at it! Young trophy wife, I mean, in the parlance of our times, owes money all over town, including to known pornographers-- and that's cool, that's cool-- but I'm saying, she needs money, and of course they're gonna say they didn't get it 'cause she wants more, man, she's gotta feed the monkey, I mean-- hasn't that ever occurred to you...? Sir?

LEBOWSKI

(quietly)

No. No Mr. Lebowski, that had not occurred to me.

BRANDT

That had not occurred to us, Dude.

DUDE

Well, okay, you're not privy to all the new shit, so uh, you know, but that's what you pay me for. Speaking of which, would it be possible for me to get my twenty grand in cash? I gotta check this with my accountant of course, but my concern is that,

you know, it could bump me into a higher tax--

LEBOWSKI

Brandt, give him the envelope.

DUDE

Well, okay, if you've already made out the check. Brandt is handing him a letter-sized envelope which is distended by something inside.

BRANDT

We received it this morning.

cotton
The Dude, frowning, untucks its flap, takes out some wadding and unrolls it.

LEBOWSKI

Since you have failed to achieve, even in the modest task that was your charge, since you have stolen my money, and since you have unrepentantly betrayed my trust.

up
and
The wadding, undone, reveals a smaller wad of gauze taped inside. The Dude undoes the tape with his fingernails starts to unroll the inner package.

LEBOWSKI

I have no choice but to tell these bums that they should do whatever is necessary to recover their money from you, Jeffrey Lebowski. And with Brandt as my witness, tell you this: Any further harm visited upon Bunny, shall be visited tenfold upon your head.

contents
polish.
Between thumb and forefinger the Dude holds up the of the package--a little toe, with emerald green nail

LEBOWSKI

...By God sir. I will not abide another toe.

COFFEE SHOP

little
The Dude and Walter sit at the counter, both staring off into space, both absently stirring their coffee with clinking noises.

AFTER A LONG BEAT:

WALTER

That wasn't her toe.

DUDE
Whose toe was it, Walter?

WALTER
How the fuck should I know? I do know that nothing about it indicates--

DUDE
The nail polish, Walter.

WALTER
Fine, Dude. As if it's impossible to get some nail polish, apply it to someone else's toe--

DUDE
Someone else's--where the fuck are they gonna--

WALTER
You want a toe? I can get you a toe, believe me. There are ways, Dude. You don't wanna know about it, believe me.

DUDE
But Walter--

WALTER
I'll get you a toe by this afternoon--with nail polish. These fucking amateurs. They send us a toe, we're supposed to shit ourselves with fear. Jesus Christ. My point is--

DUDE
They're gonna kill her, Walter, and then they're gonna kill me--

WALTER
Well that's just, that's the stress talking, Dude. So far we have what looks to me like a series of victimless crimes--

DUDE
What about the toe?

WALTER
FORGET ABOUT THE FUCKING TOE!

A waitress enters.

WAITRESS
Could you please keep your voices down--this is a family restaurant.

WALTER

Oh, please dear! I've got news for you: the Supreme Court has roundly rejected prior restraint!

DUDE

Walter, this isn't a First Amendment thing.

WAITRESS

Sir, if you don't calm down I'm going to have to ask you to leave.

WALTER

Lady, I got buddies who died face-down in the muck so you and I could enjoy this family restaurant!

THE DUDE GETS UP:

DUDE

All right, I'm leaving. I'm sorry ma'am.

WALTER

Don't run away from this, Dude! Goddamnit, this affects all of us!

The Dude has left frame; Walter calls after him:

WALTER

Our basic freedoms!

He looks defiantly around.

WALTER

I'm staying. Finishing my coffee.

Muzak,

He stirs the coffee, bopping his head in time to the affecting nonchalance.

WALTER

Finishing my coffee.

DUDE'S BATHROOM

A dripping noise.

joint

The Dude sits in the bathtub, staring stuporously, a pinched in one hand, a washcloth draped over his head.

We hear the phone ringing in the other room.

The Dude is staring at his toes, which protrude from the soapy water, splayed against the far side of the tub.

After the Dude's outgoing message we hear:

VOICE THROUGH MACHINE

Mr. Lebowski, this is Duty Officer

Rolvaag of the L.A.P.D.

The Dude looks stuporously up, his head swaying.

VOICE THROUGH MACHINE

We've recovered your vehicle. It can be claimed at the North Hollywood Auto Circus there on Victory.

DUDE

Far out. Far fuckin' out.

MESSAGE

You'll just need to present a--

The message is interrupted by loud smashing sounds, as of someone applying a baseball bat to the answering machine.

DUDE

Hunh?

He looks blearily at the open doorway.

is A tall man dressed in black leather with a cricket paddle striding across the living room towards the bathroom.

DUDE

Hey! This is a private residence, man!

the The man has entered the bathroom and, in stride, swings cricket paddle up to smash the overhead light. Two other men are entering behind him.

room; The room is dark now except for spill from the living the men are backlit shapes.

small One of them holds a string at the other end of which a animal skitters excitedly about the floor.

The Dude looks curiously at the small, nattering animal.

DUDE

Nice marmot.

it, The man with the string scoops up the marmot and tosses screaming, into the bathtub.

The Dude screams.

The marmot splashes frantically, biting at the Dude in a frenzy of fearful aggression.

FIRST MAN

Vee vant zat money, Lebowski.

to
his

The Dude, screaming, grabs the lip of the tub and starts hoist himself up but the first man lays a palm on top of head and squishes him back into the water.

SECOND MAN

You think veer kidding und making mit de funny stuff?

THIRD MAN

Vee could do things you only dreamed of, Lebowski.

SECOND MAN

Ja, vee could really do it, Lebowski. Vee belief in nossing.

He scoops the marmot out of the water. It shakes itself off, spraying the Dude.

DUDE

Jesus!

DIETER

Vee belief in nossing, Lebowski!
NOSSING!!

shaking

The marmot, back on the floor, is skittering around, itself and convulsing in little sneezes.

DUDE

Jesus Christ!

FIRST MAN

Tomorrow vee come back und cut off your chonson.

DUDE

Excuse me?

FIRST MAN

I SAY VEE CUT OFF YOUR CHONSON!

backs:

The three men turn to leave. Over their retreating

SECOND MAN

Just sink about zat, Lebowski.

FIRST MAN

Ja, your viggly penis, Lebowski.

SECOND MAN

Ja, und maybe vee stamp on it und skvush it, Lebowski!

NORTH HOLLYWOOD AUTO CIRCUS

A policeman with a clipboard is leading the Dude through

a

large parking lot.

POLICEMAN

You're lucky she wasn't chopped, Mr. Lebowski. Must've been a joyride situation; they abandoned the car once they hit the retaining wall.

They have reached the Dude's car. The driver's side exterior has been scraped raw. The policeman hands the

Dude

a door handle and an exterior rear-view mirror.

POLICEMAN

These were on the road next to the car. You'll have to get in on the other side.

The Dude climbs in the passenger side.

DUDE

My fucking briefcase! It's not here!

POLICEMAN

Yeah, sorry, I saw that on the report. You're lucky they left the tape deck though.

DUDE

My fucking briefcase! Jesus--what's that smell?

POLICEMAN

Uh, yeah. Probably a vagrant, slept in the car. Or perhaps just used it as a toilet, and moved on.

The Dude tries to roll down the driver's window but it not go; he bellows through the glass:

will

DUDE

When will you find these guys? I mean, do you have any promising leads?

The policeman laughs, agreeing broadly.

POLICEMAN

Leads, yeah. I'll just check with the boys down at the Crime Lab. They've assigned four more detectives to the case, got us working in shifts.

The Dude looks sadly through his window at the policeman rocking back on his heels, his raucous laughter muffled

by

the glass.

BOWLING ALLEY BAR

a

The Dude, Walter and Donny sit at the bar, the Dude with White Russian, Walter with a beer, and Donny eating beer nuts.

DONNY

And then they're gonna stamp on it?!

WALTER

Oh for Christ--will you shut the fuck up, Donny.

DUDE

I figure my only hope is that the big Lebowski kills me before the Germans can cut my dick off.

WALTER

Now that is ridiculous, Dude. No one is going to cut your dick off.

DUDE

Thanks Walter.

WALTER

Not if I have anything to say about it.

DUDE

(bitterly)

Yeah, thanks Walter. That gives me a very secure feeling.

WALTER

Dude--

DUDE

That makes me feel all warm inside.

WALTER

Now Dude--

DUDE

This whole fucking thing--I could be sitting here with just pee-stains on my rug.

Walter sadly shakes his head.

WALTER

Fucking Germans. Nothing changes. Fucking Nazis.

DONNY

They were Nazis, Dude?

WALTER

Come on, Donny, they were threatening castration!

DONNY

Uh-huh.

WALTER
Are you gonna split hairs?

DONNY
No--

WALTER
Am I wrong?

DONNY
Well--

DUDE
They're nihilists.

WALTER
Huh?

DUDE
They kept saying they believe in
nothing.

WALTER
Nihilists! Jesus.

Walter looks haunted.

Say what you like about the tenets of National Socialism,
Dude, at least it's an ethos.

DUDE
Yeah.

WALTER
And let's also not forget--let's not
forget, Dude--that keeping wildlife,
an amphibious rodent, for uh,
domestic, you know, within the city--
that isn't legal either.

DUDE
What're you, a fucking park ranger
now?

WALTER
No, I'm--

DUDE
Who gives a shit about the fucking
marmot!

WALTER
--We're sympathizing here, Dude--

DUDE
Fuck your sympathy! I don't need
your sympathy, man, I need my fucking
Johnson!

DONNY
What do you need that for, Dude?

WALTER
You gotta buck up, man, you can't go
into the tournament with this negative
attitude--

DUDE
Fuck the tournament! Fuck you,
Walter!

There is a moment of stunned silence.

WALTER
Fuck the tournament?!

SAD; QUIET:

WALTER
Okay Dude. I can see you don't want
to be cheered up. C'mon Donny, let's
go get a lane.

They leave the Dude sitting morosely at the bar. As he
stares

DOWN INTO HIS EMPTY GLASS:

DUDE
Another Caucasian, Gary.

VOICE
Right, Dude.

STILL STARING DOWN AT THE BAR:

DUDE
Friends like these, huh Gary.

GARY
That's right, Dude.

The pop song on the jukebox has ended; someone puts on
"Tumbling Tumbleweeds."

Walter
Sam
and
A man saunters up to the bar to take the stool that
vacated. He is middle-aged, amiable, craggily handsome--
Elliot, perhaps. He has a large Western-style mustache
wears denims, a yoked shirt and a cowboy hat.

TO THE BARTENDER:

MAN
D'ya have a good sarsaparilla?

We recognize the voice of The Stranger whose narration
opened

the movie.

BARTENDER
Sioux City Sarsaparilla.

The Stranger nods.

THE STRANGER
That's a good one.

His
Waiting for his drink, he looks amiably around the bar.
crinkled eyes settle on the Dude.

THE STRANGER
How ya doin' there, Dude?

head.
The Dude, still staring down at his drink, shakes his

DUDE
Ahh, not so good, man.

THE STRANGER
One a those days, huh. Wal, a wiser
fella than m'self once said, sometimes
you eat the bar and sometimes the
bar, wal, he eats you.

DUDE
(absently)
Uh-huh. That some kind of Eastern
thing?

THE STRANGER
Far from it.

DUDE
Mm.

the
The bartender puts a brown bottle and a frosted glass on
bar in front of The Stranger, who touches his hat brim.

THE STRANGER
Much obliged.

He looks back at the Dude.

THE STRANGER
I like your style, Dude.

THE DUDE LOOKS UP, ABSENTLY:

DUDE
Well I like your style too, man.
Got a whole cowboy thing goin'.

THE STRANGER
Thankie. . . Just one thing, Dude.
D'ya have to use s'many cuss words?

how

The Dude looks at The Stranger as if just now noticing
out of place the cowpoke is.

DUDE

The fuck are you talking about?

The Stranger chuckles indulgently and pushes off from the
bar.

THE STRANGER

Okay, have it your way.

He brushes his hat brim with a fingertip.

THE STRANGER

Take it easy, Dude.

DUDE

Yeah. Thanks man.

an

He is gone. "Tumbling Tumbleweeds" is ending as we hear
offscreen voice, breaking the spell:

VOICE

Dude! Dude!

THE DUDE LOOKS:

bar,

Tony, the unformed limo driver, is at the door of the
beckoning.

MAUDE'S LOFT

just

She strides toward us, naked under a robe which she is
cinching shut. Paint flecks her skin.

MAUDE

Jeffrey, you haven't gone to the
doctor.

DUDE

No it's fine, really, uh--

MAUDE

Do you have any news regarding my
father's money?

DUDE

I, uh... money, yeah, I gotta
respectfully, 69 you know, tender my
resignation on that matter, 'cause
it looks like your mother really was
kidnapped after all.

MAUDE

She most certainly was not!

DUDE

Hey man, why don't you fucking listen occasionally? You might learn something. Now I got--

MAUDE

And please don't call her my mother.

DUDE

Now I got--

MAUDE

She is most definitely the perpetrator and not the victim.

DUDE

I'm telling you, I got definitive evidence--

MAUDE

From who?

DUDE

The main guy, Dieter--

MAUDE

Dieter Hauff?

DUDE

Well--yeah, I guess--

MAUDE

Her "co-star" in the beaver picture?

DUDE

Beaver? You mean vagina?--I mean, you know him?

MAUDE

Dieter has been on the fringes of-- well, of everything in L.A., for about twenty years. Look at my LP's. Under 'Autobahn.'

The Dude fingers through the albums filling one
bookshelf.

MAUDE

That was his group--they released one album in the mid-seventies.

The Dude stops between two albums.

DUDE

Roy Orbison. . . Pink Floyd.

MAUDE

Huh? Autobahn. A-u-t-o. Their music is a sort of--ugh--techno-pop.

and a

The Dude pulls out an album with a worn sleeve. On it is the group's name, Autobahn, the album name, Nagelbett, picture

are

name

OF THREE YOUNG GERMANS, THEIR FOREHEADS LOOMING BELOW SLICKED-

back hair, gazing upward in thin-lipped epiphany. They

wearing severe but modishly retro suits. Each has his

under his picture--Dieter, Kieffer; and Franz. A bed of nails is the only set dressing on the cyc.

DUDE

Jeez. I miss vinyl.

MAUDE

Is he pretending to be the abductor?

DUDE

Well...yeah--

MAUDE

Look, Jeffrey, you don't really kidnap someone that you're acquainted with. You can't get away with it if the hostage knows who you are.

DUDE

Well yeah...I know that.

MAUDE

So Dieter has the money?

DUDE

Well, no, not exactly. It's a complicated case, Maude. Lotta ins. Lotta outs. And a lotta strands to keep in my head, man. Lotta strands in old Duder's--

MAUDE

Do you still have that doctor's number?

DUDE

Huh? No, really, I don't even have the bruise any more, I--

She is scribbling.

MAUDE

Please Jeffrey. I don't want to be responsible for any delayed after-effects.

DUDE

Delayed after-eff--

MAUDE

I want you to see him immediately.

She is picking up a telephone.

MAUDE

I'll see if he's available. He's a good man, and thorough.

CLOSE SHOT THE DUDE

His eyes are closed, a headset on, his shirt off.

Leaking

tinnily through the headset we hear the opening bars of "Comin' Up Around the Bend."

torso,

Behind him, cropped so that we see only a little of his

a white-smocked figure taps at the Dude's back. After a moment the figure circles to one side, out of frame. His hand reaches in to pull one arm of the headset away from

the

Dude's ear, and as he does so the music issues more

strongly.

VOICE

Could you slide your shorts down please, Mr. Lebowski?

The Dude's eyes open.

DUDE

Huh? No, she, she hit me right here.

VOICE

I understand sir. Could you slide your shorts down please?

DUDE'S CAR

The Dude is driving home. A Creedence tape plays. The

Dude

is sucking down a joint. He glances at the rear-view

mirror--

and, noticing something, looks again.

HIS POV

A Volkswagon bug is following, a lone fat man driving.

THE DUDE

His eyes still on the mirror, he absently takes the joint between thumb and forefinger of his right hand and flicks

it

out the driver's window--except that the window is not

open.

The butt bounces off the glass and around the car,

showering

sparks.

DUDE'S CROTCH

legs. The glowing butt rolls down the car seat between his
The Dude screams.

THE STREET

off The car careens wildly as the surrounding traffic veers
comes to, make way, horns blaring. The car finally spins and
to rest with its passenger side wrapped into a telephone
poll.

INSIDE THE CAR

The Dude frantically grabs at his door, which won't open,
and then slides over to push at the passenger door, which
also won't open.

DUDE

Fuck Me.

But he is sitting on the passenger side now, away from
the lit butt. He looks around for it.

cushion Smoke is wisping up from between the Driver's seat
and back cushion.

DUDE

Fuckola, man.

paper He takes his beer and pours it in between the cushions.
There is a hissing sound. But there is a piece of
sticking out from between the cushions.

The Dude pulls it out.

right- It is lined spiral notebook paper, slightly singed and
dripping beer, covered with handwriting. In the upper

Louisiana hand corner is the name Lawrence Sellers, and under that,
Mrs. Jamtoss 5th Period. The theme is titled "The

circled Purchase." In red ink is a large circled D and some
handwritten marginal comments; misspelled words are

in red throughout.

CRANE JACKSON'S FOUNTAIN STREET THEATER

stage We are behind Walter, the Dude, and Donny, facing the
landlord, in the background where Allan, the Dude's balding
is performing a dance moderne.

As Walter talks to the Dude he leans in to him, his voice

hushed, so as not to disturb the rest of the very sparse audience.

WALTER
He lives in North Hollywood on
Radford, near the In-and-Out Burger--

DUDE
The In-and-Out Burger is on Camrose.

WALTER
Near the In-and-Out Burger--

DONNY
Those are good burgers, Walter.

WALTER
Shut the fuck up, Donny. This kid
is in the ninth grade, Dude, and his
father is--are you ready for this?--
Arthur Digby Sellers.

DUDE
Who the fuck is that?

WALTER
Huh?

DUDE
Who the fuck is Arthur Digby Sellers?

WALTER
Who the f--have you ever heard of a
little show called Branded, Dude?

DUDE
Yeah.

WALTER
All but one man died? There at Bitter
Creek?

DUDE
Yeah yeah, I know the fucking show
Walter, so what?

WALTER
Fucking Arthur Digby Sellers wrote
156 episodes, Dude.

DUDE
Uh-huh.

WALTER
The bulk of the series.

DUDE
Uh-huh.

WALTER
Not exactly a lightweight.

DUDE

No.

WALTER

And yet his son is a fucking dunce.

DUDE

Uh.

WALTER

Yeah, go figure. Well we'll go out there after the, uh, the.

He waves a hand vaguely toward the stage.

WALTER

What have you. We'll, uh--

DONNY

We'll be near the In-and-Out Burger.

WALTER

Shut the fuck up, Donny. We'll, uh, brace the kid--he'll be a pushover. We'll get that fucking money, if he hasn't spent it already. Million fucking clams. And yes, we'll be near the, uh--some burgers, some beers, a few laughs. Our fucking troubles are over, Dude.

RESIDENTIAL AREA

dilapidated

The Dude and Walter are pulling up in front of a house sitting on a scrubby lot. Parked incongruously in front of the house is a brand new red Corvette.

DUDE

Fuck me, man! That kid's already spent all the money!

WALTER

Hardly Dude, a new 'vette? The kid's still got, oh, 96 to 97 thousand, depending on the options. Wait in the car, Donny.

THE FRONT DOOR

Spanish

Walter rings the bell. It is opened by a matronly woman.

WOMAN

Jace?

WALTER

Hello, Pilar? My name is Walter Sobchak, we spoke on the phone, this

is my associate Jeffrey Lebowski.

WOMAN

Jace.

WALTER

May we uh, we wanted to talk about
little Larry. May we come in?

WOMAN

Jace.

They enter a dim living room and stand, looking about, as
Pilar

CALLS UP THE STAIRS:

PILAR

Larry! Sweetie! Dat mang is here!

and
man
its
bubble.

There is a rhythmic compressor sound; Walter places it
nudges the Dude. At the other end of the living room a
lies on something that looks like a hospital gurney with
midsection enclosed by a motorized stainless-steel

It is an iron lung, artificially breathing with distinct
hisses in and out.

WALTER

That's him, Dude.

VIVA VOCE

And a good day to you, sir.

PILAR

See down, please.

WALTER

Thank you, ma'am.

lowered

He and the Dude sit on a sagging green sofa. In a
voice, to Pilar:

WALTER

Does he, uh. . . Is he still writing?

PILAR

No, no. He has healt' problems.

WALTER

Uh-huh.

HE BELLOWS ACROSS THE ROOM:

WALTER

I just want to say, sir, that we're
both enormous--on a personal level,

Branded, especially the early episodes, has been a source of, uh, inspir---

year- There are footsteps on the stairs. Larry, a fifteen-
old, looks at the two men.

PILAR
See down, Sweetie. These are the policeman--

WALTER
No ma'am, I didn't mean to give the impression that we're police exactly. We're hoping that it will not be necessary to call the police.

He adopts his command voice in turning to Larry:

WALTER
But that is up to little Larry here. Isn't it, Larry?

out Walter pops the latches on his attache case and takes out the homework, which is now in a ziploc bag. He holds it
at arm's length, displaying it to Larry.

WALTER
Is this your homework, Larry?

Larry does not respond.

WALTER
Is this your homework, Larry?

DUDE
Look, man, did you--

WALTER
Dude, please!. . . Is this your homework, Larry?

DUDE
Just ask him if he--ask him about the car, man!

Walter is still holding out the homework.

WALTER
Is this yours, Larry? Is this your homework, Larry?

DUDE
Is the car out front yours?

WALTER
Is this your homework, Larry?

DUDE

We know it's his fucking homework,
Walter! Where's the fucking money,
you little brat?

homework Throughout Walter has been staring at Larry with the
extended towards him.

WALTER
Look, Larry. . . Have you ever heard
of Vietnam?

DUDE
Oh, for Christ's sake, Walter!

WALTER
You're going to enter a world of
pain, son. We know that this is
your homework. We know you stole a
car--

DUDE
And the fucking money!

WALTER
And the fucking money. And we know
that this is your homework, Larry.

No answer.

WALTER
You're gonna KILL your FATHER, Larry!.

FINALLY, IN DISGUST:

WALTER
Ah, this is pointless.

As he shoves the homework back in the attache case:

WALTER
All right, Plan B. You might want
to watch out the front window there,
Larry.

He is heading for the door. The Dude, puzzled, rises to
follow him.

WALTER
This is what happens when you FUCK a
STRANGER in the ASS, Larry.

OUTSIDE

like
at,
Walter is striding down the lawn with his attache case
an enraged encyclopedia salesman. Without looking back
the Dude, who follows:

WALTER

Fucking language problem, Dude.

takes He pops the Dude's trunk, flings in the briefcase and
out a tire iron.

WALTER
Maybe he'll understand this.

He is walking over to the Corvette.

WALTER
YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENS, LARRY!

CRASH! He swings the crowbar into the windshield, which
shatters.

WALTER
YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENS?!

CRASH! He takes out the driver's window.

WALTER
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU FUCK A
STRANGER IN THE ASS!

dogs Lights are going on in houses down the street. Distant
bark.

WALTER
HERE'S WHAT HAPPENS, LARRY!

CRASH!

WALTER
HERE'S WHAT HAPPENS! FUCK A STRANGER
IN THE ASS!

CRASH!

over of A man in a sleeveless T-shirt and boxer shorts has run
behind Walter and grabbed him from behind on a backswing
the crowbar.

MAN
WHAT THE FUCK JOO DOING, MANG?!

He wrestles the crowbar away from the startled Walter.

MAN
I JUS' BAWDEEZ FUCKEEN CAR LASS WEEK!

Walter cringes before the enraged Mexican.

WALTER
Hunh?

The man looks about, wildly.

MAN
I KILL JOO, MANG! I--I KILL JOR
FUCKEEN CAR!

He runs over to the Dude's car.

DUDE
No! No! NO! THAT'S NOT--

CRASH! CRASH!

MAN
I FUCKEEN KILL JOR FUCKEEN CAR!

CRASH!

MAN
I KILL JOR FUCKEEN CAR!

INSIDE THE CAR

Glass rains in on a terrified, cringing, Donny.

MAN
I KILL JOR FUCKEEN CAR!

ON A DEAFENING CRASH WE CUT

TO:

THE DUDE'S CAR

We are looking into the car through the broken windshield
as
it rattles down the freeway. Wind whistles through the
caved-
in windows.

The Dude drives, his jaw clenched, staring grimly out at
the
road. Walter, beside him, and Donny in the back seat,
munch
'on In-and-Out Burgers.

Creedence music plays above the bluster of wind.

DUDE'S BUNGALOW

As the Dude talks on the phone he is hammering a two-by-
four
door.
into the floor just inside, and parallel to, the front

DUDE
I accept your apology. . . No I, I
just want to handle it myself from
now on. . . No. That has nothing to
do with it. . . .Yes, it made it
home, I'm calling from home. No,
Walter, it didn't look like Larry

was about to crack.

chair He finishes hammering, rises and grabs a straightbacked
that stands nearby.

DUDE

Well that's your perception. . .
Well you're right, Walter, and the
unspoken Message is FUCK YOU AND
LEAVE ME THE FUCK ALONE. . . Yeah,
I'll be at practice.

when He hangs up and has just finished sliding the chair into
place with its top under the doorknob and its legs braced
against the two-by-four, thus wedging the door closed,
the door is opened--outwards. The chair clatters to the
floor.

DUDE

Huh?

in, Woo and the blond man who earlier peed on the rug stride
kicking the chair away.

WOO

Pin your diapers on, Lebowski. Jackie
Treehorn wants to see you.

BLOND MAN

And we know which Lebowski you are,
Lebowski.

WOO

Yeah. Jackie Treehorn wants to talk
to the deadbeat Lebowski.

BLOND MAN

You're not dealing with morons here.

BLACKNESS

is Out of the blackness something is falling toward us. It
a woman, falling in slow motion, her limbs flailing, her
topless. mouth contorted by either fear or ecstasy. She is
a She falls past the camera, leaving blackness, then after
beat reappears, rising into the night sky.

MALIBU BEACH

casual A crowd of mostly tanned middle-aged men with blow-dried
hair, wearing jogging outfits and other expensively
attire, are blanket-tossing the squealing young woman in
nightmarish slow motion.

WIDER

Mancini-
beach'.
It is a party, lit by festive beach lights and standing kerosene heaters. 1960's mainstream jazz, of the Brubeck school, has been piped down to speakers on the

In long shot now the woman rises, squealing, disappears into darkness, descends into light, rises again.

pants
the
A man walks towards the camera through the pools of beach light. He is handsome, fiftyish, wearing cotton twill and a Turnbull & Asher shirt with a foulard knotted at neck. Behind him, the woman rises and falls, appears and disappears.

MAN

Hello Dude, thanks for coming. I'm Jackie Treehorn.

INSIDE THE BEACH HOUSE

The Dude is looking around at the '60's modern decor.

DUDE

This is quite a pad you got here, man. Completely unspoiled.

TREEHORN

What's your drink, Dude?

DUDE

White Russian, thanks. How's the smut business, Jackie?

TREEHORN

I wouldn't know, Dude. I deal in publishing, entertainment, political advocacy, and--

DUDE

Which one was Logjammin'?

TREEHORN

Regrettably, it's true, standards have fallen in adult entertainment. It's video, Dude. Now that we're competing with the amateurs, we can't afford to invest that little extra in story, production value, feeling.

He taps his forehead with one finger.

TREEHORN

People forget that the brain is the biggest erogenous zone--

DUDE

On you, maybe.

He hands him the drink.

TREEHORN

Of course, you do get the good with the bad. The new technology permits us to do exciting things with interactive erotic software. Wave of the future, Dude. 100% electronic.

DUDE

Uh-huh. Well, I still jerk off manually.

TREEHORN

Of course you do. I can see you're anxious for me to get to the point. Well Dude, here it is. Where's Bunny?

DUDE

I thought you might know, man.

TREEHORN

Me? How would I know? The only reason she ran off was to get away from her rather sizable debt to me.

DUDE

But she hasn't run off, she's been--

Treehorn waves this off.

TREEHORN

I've heard the kidnapping story, so save it. I know you're mixed up in all this, Dude, and I don't care what you're trying to take off her husband. That's your business. All I'm saying is, I want mine.

DUDE

Yeah, well, right man, there are many facets to this, uh, you know, many interested parties. If I can find your money, man-- what's in it for the Dude?

TREEHORN

Of course, there's that to discuss. Refill?

DUDE

Does the Pope shit in the woods?

TREEHORN

Let's say a 10% finder's fee?

DUDE

Okay, Jackie, done. I like the way you do business. Your money is being

held by a kid named Larry Sellers.
He lives in North Hollywood, on
Radford, near the In-and-Out Burger.
A real fuckin' brat, but I'm sure
your goons'll be able to get it off
him, mean he's only fifteen and he's
flunking social studies. So if you'll
just write me a check for my ten per
cent. . . of half a million. . .
fifty grand.

He is getting to his feet, but sways woozily.

DUDE

I'll go out and mingle.--Jesus, you
mix a hell of a Caucasian, Jackie.

The Dude shakes his head, tries to focus.

TREEHORN

A fifteen-year-old? Is this your
idea of a joke?

Jackie Treehorn's image starts to swim. He is joined on
either side by Woo and the blond man, all three men

looking

grimly down at the Dude.

DUDE

No funny stuff, Jackie. . . the kid's
got it. Hiya, fellas. . . kid just
wanted a car. All the Dude ever
wanted. . . was his rug back. . .
not greedy. . . it really.

He squints at Jackie Treehorn, who swims in and out of

focus.

Tied the room together.

He tips forward, spilling his drink off the table.

FROM UNDER THE GLASS COFFEE TABLE

Looking up at the Dude as his face hits the glass and
squishes.

FAST FADE OUT

BLACK

THE STRANGER'S VOICE

Darkness warshed over the Dude--
darker'n a black steer's tookus on a
moonless prairie night. There was
no bottom.

We hear a thundering bass.

SCRATCHY WHITE TITLE CARD:

JACKIE TREEHORN PRESENTS

ANOTHER TITLE CARD:

THE DUDE

AND

MAUDE LEBOWSKI

IN

THIRD TITLE CARD:

GUTTERBALLS

flanked
turns

The title logo is a suggestively upright bowling pin by a pair of bowling balls. The bending bass sound into the lead-in to Kenny Rogers and the First Edition's "Just Dropped In."

cable
light

The Dude is walking down a long corridor dressed as a repairman. The Dude's face is washed with a brilliant as the corridor opens onto a gleaming bowling alley.

pigtails,

In the center of the alley stands Maude Lebowski, singing operatic harmony to the Kenny Rogers song. She wears an armored breastplate and Norse headgear, has braided and holds a trident.

helps
ball.

The Dude stands behind her and, pressed up against her, her with her follow-through as she releases a bowling

mini-
legs

The lane is straddled by a line of chorines in spangly skirts, their arms akimbo, Busby-Berkley style, their turning the lane into a tunnel leading to the pins at the end.

lane,
face

But it is no longer a bowling ball rolling between their legs--it is the Dude himself, levitating inches off the the tools from his utility belt swinging free. He is down, his arms, torpedolike, pressed against his sides.

little

His point of view shows the lane rushing by below, the ball-guide arrows zipping by.

so

The Dude twists his body around, performing a barrel-roll that he is now gliding along the lane face-up.

Now his point of view looks up the dresses of the passing chorines.

forward
The Dude smiles dreamily and does a backstroke motion so that he is once again gliding face-down. He looks
and his forward momentum blows back his hair.

legs,
them,
Coming at us, as we go through the last few pairs of
are the approaching pins. We hit the pins, scattering
and rush on into black.

topless
A body drops down into the blackness in slow motion--a
woman, squealing, her legs kicking.

pool
wielding
As she drops out of frame, leaving blackness again, three
men are entering from the background, emerging into a
of light. It is the Germans, advancing ominously,
oversized shears which they menacingly scissor.

The Dude, now standing in a field of black, reacts to the
advancing Germans. He turns and runs, fists pumping.

of
Pacific
blaring.
The scissoring sound of the shears turns into the whoosh
car-bys. The field of black is punctured by headlights.
The Dude is running blearily down the middle of the
Coast Highway. Cars rush by on either side, horns

with
With the BLOO-WHUP of a short siren blast, a squad car
flashing gumballs pulls up.

SQUAD CAR

Branded:
The Dude sits in the back seat, his head lolling with the
motion of the car as he blearily sings the theme of

DUDE

He was innocent. Not a charge was
true. And they say he ran awaaaaaay.

CHIEF'S OFFICE

bounces
chair.
The Dude is hurled against the chief's desk, which he
off of, to come to rest more or less seated in a facing

His wallet is tossed onto the desk.

through
The chief leans forward, takes the wallet and sorts

it with disgusted incredulity.

CHIEF
This is your only I.D.?

He is looking at the Ralph's Shopper's Club card.

DUDE
I know my rights.

CHIEF
You don't know shit, Lebowski.

DUDE
I want a fucking lawyer, man. I
want Bill Kunstler.

CHIEF
What are you, some kind of sad-assed
refugee from the fucking sixties?

DUDE
Uh-huh.

CHIEF
Mr. Treehorn tells us that he had to
eject you from his garden party,
that you were drunk and abusive.

DUDE
That guy treats women like objects,
man.

CHIEF
Mr. Treehorn draws a lot of water in
this town, Lebowski. You don't draw
shit. We got a nice quiet beach
community here, and I aim to keep it
nice and quiet. So let me make
something plain. I don't like you
sucking around bothering our citizens,
Lebowski. I don't like your jerk-
off name, I don't like your jerk-off
face, I don't like your jerk-off
behavior, and I don't like you, jerk-
off --do I make myself clear?

The Dude stares.

DUDE
I'm sorry, I wasn't listening.

The Chief hurls his steaming mug of coffee at the Dude.

It

hits him in the forehead with a thud, the scalding coffee
splashing everywhere.

The Chief is already up off his chair, rounding the desk.

DUDE
--Ow! Fucking fascist!

The Chief slaps him twice.

CHIEF
Stay out of Malibu, Lebowski!

starts

He kicks the chair out from under the Dude, and then kicking at him.

CHIEF
Stay out of Malibu, deadbeat! Keep your ugly fucking goldbricking ass out of my beach community!

CAB

squeaks

The Dude, in the back seat of a taxicab that rocks and with every bump, is gingerly touching at sore spots on his face and scalp.

"Peaceful Easy Feeling" is on the radio.

DUDE'S POV

dreds

The back of the driver, a large black man with rasta under a knit cap.

DUDE
Jesus, man, can you change the station?

DRIVER
Fuck you man! You don't like my fucking music, get your own fucking cab!

DUDE
I've had a--

DRIVER
I pull over and kick your ass out, man!

DUDE
--had a rough night, and I hate the fucking Eagles, man--

DRIVER
That's it! Outta this fucking cab!

THE STREET

The cab screeches over towards the curb. Another car, oncoming, its radio blaring Metallica, speeds by.

INSIDE THE OTHER CAR

It is a red convertible. The driver, singing loudly and badly along with the radio, her hair blowing in the wind, dreamy smile on her face as she speeds along, higher than kite, is Bunny Lebowski.

THE FOOTWELL

On the accelerator her right foot, in an open-toed bright red high-heeled shoe, has five painted toes.

When she downshifts her left foot enters to engage the clutch.

Five more toes.

DUDE'S BUNGALOW

The Dude staggers in the open front door, one hand pressed to a lump on his forehead, and looks around.

DUDE

Jesus.

The place is a wreck. Furniture has been overturned, upholstery slashed, drawers dumped.

Quiet.

The door to the bedroom starts to creak open.

The Dude cringes.

Maude emerges from the bedroom. She is wearing a bathrobe.

MAUDE

Jeffrey.

DUDE

Maude?

She pulls open the bathrobe as she approaches.

MAUDE

Love me.

The Dude is stupefied.

DUDE

That's my robe.

THOOMP! ON THE EMBRACE WE CUT

TO:

BLACK

After a beat, a long sigh, and then a voice from the blackness:

MAUDE
Tell me a little about yourself,
Jeffrey.

DUDE
Well, uh. . . Not much to tell.

lighting
blackness

A match is dragged across a headboard; the Dude is
himself a joint. He shakes the match out to restore
except for the glowing tip of the joint.

DUDE
I was, uh, one of the authors of the
Port Huron Statement.--The original
Port Huron Statement.

MAUDE
Uh-huh.

DUDE
Not the compromised second draft.
And then I, uh. . . Ever hear of the
Seattle Seven?

MAUDE
Mmnun.

lie

Click--the Dude turns on a bedside lamp. He and Maude
next to each other in bed.

DUDE
And then. . . let's see, I uh--music
business briefly.

MAUDE
Oh?

DUDE
Yeah. Roadie for Metallica. Speed
of Sound Tour.

MAUDE
Uh-huh.

DUDE
Bunch of assholes. And then, you
know, little of this, little of that.
My career's, uh, slowed down a bit
lately.

MAUDE
What do you do for fun?

DUDE
Oh, you know, the usual. Bowl.
Drive around. The occasional acid
flashback.

a
each

He climbs out of bed but Maude remains in it. She wedges pillow into the small of her back and clasps a hand on kneecap. She pulls her knees in toward her chest to keep her pelvis raised.

MAUDE

What happened to your house?

DUDE

Jackie Treehorn trashed the place. Wanted to save the finder's fee.

MAUDE

Finder's fee?

DUDE

He thought I had your father's money, so he got me out of the way while he looked for it.

MAUDE

It's not my father's money, it's the Foundation's. Why did he think you had it? And who does?

DUDE

Larry Sellers, a high-school kid. Real fucking brat.

He picks a White Russian off the bedside table.

MAUDE

Jeffrey--

DUDE

It's a complicated case, Maude. Lotta ins, lotta outs. Fortunately I've been adhering to a pretty strict, uh, drug regimen to keep my mind, you know, limber. I'm real fucking close to your father's money, real fucking close. It's just--

MAUDE

I keep telling you, it's the Foundation's money. Father doesn't have any.

DUDE

Huh? He's fucking loaded.

MAUDE

No no, the wealth was all Mother's.

DUDE

But your father--he runs stuff, he--

MAUDE

We did let Father run one of the companies, briefly, but he didn't do very well at it.

DUDE

But he's--

MAUDE

He helps administer the charities now, and I give him a reasonable allowance. He has no money of his own. I know how he likes to present himself; Father's weakness is vanity. Hence the slut.

DUDE

Huh. Jeez. Well, so, did he--is that yoga?

knees Throughout, Maude has been lying on her back with her pulled in.

MAUDE

It increases the chances of conception.

The Dude spits some White Russian.

DUDE

Increases?

MAUDE

Well yes, what did you think this was all about? Fun and games?

DUDE

Well...no, of course not--

MAUDE

I want a child.

DUDE

Yeah, okay, but see, the Dude--

MAUDE

Look, Jeffrey, I don't want a partner. In fact I don't want the father to be someone I have to see socially, or who'll have any interest in rearing the child himself.

DUDE

Huh...

Something occurs to him.

DUDE

So...that doctor.

MAUDE

Exactly. What happened to your face?
Did Jackie Treehorn do that as well?

is
The Dude is staring off into space, thinking. His answer
absent.

DUDE
No, the, uh, police chief of Malibu.
A real reactionary. . . So your
father. . . Oh man, I get it!

MAUDE
What?

The Dude is leaving the bedroom.

DUDE
Yeah, my thinking about the case,
man, it had become uptight. Yeah.
Your father--

LIVING ROOM

The Dude finishes punching a number into the phone.

PHONE VOICE
This is Walter Sobchak. I'm not in;
leave a message after the beep.

FROM THE BEDROOM:

MAUDE'S VOICE
What're you talking about?

Beep.

DUDE
Walter, if you're there, pick up the
fucking phone. Pick it up, Walter,
this is an emergency. I'm not--

WALTER
Dude?

DUDE
Walter, listen, I'm at my place, I
need you to come pick me up--

WALTER
I can't drive, Dude, it's erev
shabbas.

DUDE
Huh?

WALTER
Erev shabbas. I can't drive. I'm
not even supposed to pick up the
phone, unless it's an emergency.

DUDE

It is a fucking emergency.

WALTER

I understand. That's why I picked up the phone.

DUDE

THEN WHY CAN'T YOU--fuck, never mind, just call Donny then, and ask him to--

WALTER

Dude, I'm not supposed to make calls--

DUDE

WALTER, YOU FUCKING ASSHOLE, WE GOTTA GO TO PASADENA! COME PICK ME UP OR I'M OFF THE FUCKING BOWLING TEAM!

MAUDE'S VOICE

Jeffrey?

THE DUDE

He emerges on his front stoop, pulling on a shirt. His attention is caught by something down the street.

HIS POV

A car is parked halfway down the block. We can see the shape of a fat man in the driver's seat.

THE DUDE

Striding purposefully down the street.

HIS POV

The fat man leans forward and we hear the sound of the ignition coughing, but the engine will not turn over. whines and coughs; no start.

The man hurriedly fumbles in front of him. He brings up a newspaper, which he holds before his face.

THE DUDE

As he gets to the car. He reaches through the open window and grabs the newspaper and hurls it to the ground. He is revved with nervous energy.

DUDE

Get out of that fucking car, man!

The man nervously complies. The Dude flinches at the

car's
More

a

driver's
ground.

man's

movement as he gets out.

The man cringes, reacting to the Dude's flinch.

He is wearing a cheap blue serge suit. He is bald with a short fringe and a mustache.

The Dude shouts to cover his fear:

DUDE

Who the fuck are you, man! Come on, man!

MAN

Relax, man! No physical harm intended!

DUDE

Who the fuck are you? Why've you been following me? Come on, fuckhead!

MAN

Hey, relax man, I'm a brother shamus.

The Dude is stunned.

DUDE

Brother Shamus? Like an Irish monk?

MAN

Irish m--What the fuck are you talking about? My name's Da Fino! I'm a private snoop! Like you, man!

DUDE

Huh?

DA FINO

A dick, man! And let me tell you something: I dig your work. Playing one side against the other--in bed with everybody--fabulous stuff, man.

DUDE

I'm not a--ah, fuck it, just stay away from my fucking lady friend, man.

DA FINO

Hey hey, I'm not messing with your special lady--

DUDE

She's not my special lady, she's my fucking lady friend. I'm just helping her conceive, man!

DA FINO

Hey, man, I'm not--

DUDE

Who're you working for? Lebowski?
Jackie Treehorn?

DA FINO
The Gundersons.

DUDE
The? Who the fff--

DA FINO
The Gundersons. It's a wandering
daughter job. Bunny Lebowski, man.
Her real name is Fawn Gunderson.
Her parents want her back.

He is fumbling in his wallet.

DA FINO
See?

The Dude looks at the picture.

and
It is probably a school portrait, unmistakably Bunny, but
fresh-faced, much younger looking, with a corn-fed smile
straight Partridge Family hair and bangs.

DUDE
Jesus fucking Christ.

DA FINO
Crazy, huh? Ran away a year ago.

He is holding out another picture.

The Gundersons told me to show her this when I found her.
The family farm.

flat
A bleak farmhouse and silo are the only features on a
snow-swept landscape.

her
Outside of Moorhead, Minnesota. They think it'll make
homesick.

DUDE
Boy. How ya gonna keep 'em down on
the farm once they seen Karl Hungus.

He hands back the picture.

She's been kidnapped, Da Fino. Or maybe not, but she's
definitely not around.

DA FINO
Fuck, man! That's terrible!

DUDE
Yeah, it sucks.

DA FINO

Well maybe you and me could pool our
resources--trade information--
professional courtesy--compeers, you
know--

an We hear distant yapping, growing louder with the hum of
approaching car.

DUDE

Yeah, I get it. Fuck off, Da Fino.
And stay away from my special la--
from my fucking lady friend.

its The Dude steps out to meet Walter's car as it pulls up,
passenger window open and the pomeranian leaning out and
yapping.

DENNY'S

in Four people sit at a booth: Dieter, Kieffer, Franz, all
black leather, and a young woman with long stringy blonde
hair, wearing torn and patched jeans and a ribbed
sleeveless tee-shirt, worn thin with age. She is apparently
braless, and is teutonically pale with birthmarks on her face and
arms.

bandage- Notable is her camera-side leg, which ends in a
of swaddled foot. Dried rust-colored blood stains the tip
German. the bandage. The four are arguing, loudly, in
checkpad They seem very unhappy. A waitress enters with a
and pen.

WAITRESS

You folks ready?

The German shouting stops. Dieter looks sourly up.

DIETER

I haff lingenberry pancakes.

KIEFFER

Lingenberry pancakes.

FRANZ

Sree picks in blanket.

The woman speaks to Dieter in German. He nods.

DIETER

Lingenberry pancakes.

WALTER'S CAR

the
from
Walter's eyes are on the road as he listens, driving, to
Dude, whose speech is occasionally punctuated by yaps
the back seat.

DUDE

I mean we totally fucked it up, man.
We fucked up his pay-off. And got
the kidnapppers all pissed off, and
the big Lebowski yelled at me a lot,
but he didn't do anything. Huh?

WALTER

Well it's, sometimes the cathartic,
uh.

DUDE

I'm saying if he knows I'm a fuck-
up, then why does he still leave me
in charge of getting back his wife?
Because he fucking doesn't want her
back, man! He's had enough! He no
longer digs her! It's all a show!
But then, why didn't he give a shit
about his million bucks? I mean, he
knew we didn't hand off his briefcase,
but he never asked for it back.

WALTER

What's your point, Dude?

DUDE

His million bucks was never in it,
man! There was no money in that
briefcase! He was hoping they'd
kill her! You throw out a ringer
for a ringer!

WALTER

Yeah?

DUDE

Shit yeah!

WALTER

Okay, but how does all this add up
to an emergency?

DUDE

Huh?

WALTER

I'm saying, I see what you're getting
at, Dude, he kept the money, but my
point is, here we are, it's shabbas,
the sabbath, which I'm allowed to
break only if it's a matter of life
and death--

DUDE

Walter, come off it. You're not even fucking Jewish, you're--

WALTER

What the fuck are you talking about?

DUDE

You're fucking Polish Catholic--

WALTER

What the fuck are you talking about? I converted when I married Cynthia! Come on, Dude!

DUDE

Yeah, and you were--

WALTER

You know this!

DUDE

And you were divorced five fucking years ago.

WALTER

Yeah? What do you think happens when you get divorced? You turn in your library card? Get a new driver's license? Stop being Jewish?

DUDE

This driveway.

AS HE TURNS:

WALTER

I'm as Jewish as fucking Tevye

DUDE

It's just part of your whole sick Cynthia thing. Taking care of her fucking dog. Going to her fucking synagogue. You're living in the fucking past.

WALTER

Three thousand years of beautiful tradition, from Moses to Sandy Koufax-- YOU'RE GODDAMN RIGHT I LIVE IN THE PAST! I--Jesus. What the hell happened?

He is looking off as the car slows. The Dude looks where Walter is looking.

THE LEBOWSKI MANSION

Walter's car pulls up the drive into the foreground and

he

and the Dude get out.

Both are gaping off at the front lawn.

WALTER
Jesus Christ.

THEIR POV

Tire treads lead across the manicured front lawn to where
a little red sports car rests with its hood crumpled into a
palm trunk.

TRACKING DOWN THE GREAT HALLWAY

splashing
filters
Through the French doors at its far end we can see Bunny,
naked, briefly bouncing on the diving board before
into the illuminated pool outside. Heavy metal music
in from a boom box by the pool.

the
Brandt, approaching, stoops and straightens, stoops and
straightens, picking up the discarded clothes that run
length of the hall.

BRANDT
He can't see you, Dude.

its
We pull the Dude and Walter as they approach the doors to
the great study. Walter's dog follows, stiffly waving
tail.

DUDE
Where'd she been?

BRANDT
Visiting friends of hers in Palm
Springs. Just picked up and left,
never bothered to tell us.

DUDE
But I guess she told Dieter.

WALTER
Jesus, Dude! He never even kidnapped
her.

BRANDT
Who's this gentleman, Dude?

WALTER
Who'm I? I'm a fucking VETERAN!

BRANDT
You shouldn't go in there, Dude!
He's very angry!

into--

BANG--the Dude and Walter push through the double doors

THE GREAT ROOM

The big Lebowski turns at the sound of the door. His wheelchair hums as he spins it around.

LEBOWSKI

(bitterly)

Well, she's back. No thanks to you.

DUDE

Where's the money, Lebowski?

WALTER

A MILLION BUCKS FROM FUCKING NEEDY
LITTLE URBAN ACHIEVERS! YOU ARE
SCUM, MAN!

The dog yaps.

LEBOWSKI

Who the hell is he?

WALTER

I'll tell you who I am! I'm the guy
who's gonna KICK YOUR PHONY
GOLDBRICKING ASS!

DUDE

We know the briefcase was empty,
man. We know you kept the million
bucks yourself.

LEBOWSKI

Well, you have your story, I have
mine. I say I entrusted the money
to you, and you stole it.

WALTER

AS IF WE WOULD EVER DREAM OF TAKING
YOUR BULLSHIT MONEY!

DUDE

You thought Bunny'd been kidnapped
and you could use it as a pretext to
make some money disappear. All you
needed was a sap to pin it on, and
you'd just met me. You thought,
hey, a deadbeat, a loser, someone
the square community won't give a
shit about.

LEBOWSKI

Well? Aren't you?

DUDE

Well. . . yeah.

LEBOWSKI

All right, get out. Both of you.

WALTER
Look at that fucking phony, Dude!
Pretending to be a fucking
millionaire!

LEBOWSKI
I said out. Now.

WALTER
Let me tell you something else.
I've seen a lot of spinals, Dude,
and this guy is a fake. A fucking
goldbricker.

He is crossing to Lebowski.

WALTER
This guy fucking walks. I've never
been more certain of anything in my
life!

LEBOWSKI
Stay away from me, mister!

Lebowski
Walter reaches around from behind and hoists the big
out of the wheelchair by his armpits.

WALTER
Walk, you fucking phony!

grazing
leaps
The big Lebowski waggles helplessly, his rubbery feet
the floor like a Raggedy Ann's. The pomeranian gaily
and yaps.

LEBOWSKI
Put me down, you son of a bitch!

DUDE
Walter!

WALTER
It's all over, man! We call your
fucking bluff!

DUDE
WALTER, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE! HE'S
CRIPPLED! PUT HIM DOWN!

WALTER
Sure, I'll put him down, Dude. RAUSS!
ACHTUNG, BABY!!

He shoves the big Lebowski forward and he crumples to the
floor, weeping.

WALTER

Oh, shit.

LEBOWSKI
(sobbing)
You're bullies! Cowards, both of
you!

Walter is abashed. The Big Lebowski flails about on the
floor.

WALTER
Oh, shit.

DUDE
He can't walk, Walter!

WALTER
Yeah, I can see that, Dude.

LEBOWSKI
You monsters!

DUDE
Help me put him back in his chair.

Walter moves to comply.

WALTER
Shit, sorry man.

THROUGH HIS TEARS:

LEBOWSKI
Stay away from me! You bullies!
You and these women! You won't leave
a man his fucking balls!

DUDE
Walter, you fuck!

WALTER
Shit, Dude, I didn't know. I
wouldn't've done it if I knew he was
a fucking crybaby.

DUDE
We're sorry, man. We're really sorry.

warmer
and
The Dude has picked up the Big Lebowski's plaid lap
and is frantically tucking it back in around his waist
batting the dog away.

DUDE
There ya go. Sorry man.

Lebowski.
Walter, puzzled, hands on hips, stands over the big

WALTER

Shit. He didn't look like a spinal.

TEN PINS

Scattered at the cut.

DUDE AND WALTER

Each with a beer at the scoring table.

WALTER

Sure you'll see some tank battles.
But fighting in desert is very
different from fighting in canopy
jungle.

DUDE

Uh-huh.

WALTER

I mean 'Nam was a foot soldier's war
whereas, uh, this thing should be a
fucking cakewalk. I mean I had an
M16, Jacko, not an Abrams fucking
tank. Just me and Charlie, man,
eyeball to eyeball.

DUDE

Yeah.

WALTER

That's fuckin' combat. The man in
the black pyjamas, Dude. Worthy
fuckin' adversary.

DONNY

Who's in pyjamas, Walter?

WALTER

Shut the fuck up, Donny. Not a bunch
of fig-eaters with towels on their
heads tryin' to find reverse on a
Soviet tank. This is not a worthy--

VOICE

HEY!

The Dude and Walter look.

Quintana is bellowing from the lip of the lane, and is
restrained by O'Brien.

QUINTANA

What's this "day of rest" shit, man?!

Walter looks at him innocently.

QUINTANA

What is this bullshit, man? I don't
fucking care! It don't matter to
Jesus! But you're not fooling me!

You might fool the fucks in the league office, but you don't fool Jesus! It's bush league psych-out stuff! Laughable, man! I would've fucked you in the ass Saturday, I'll fuck you in the ass next Wednesday instead!

QUINTANA

He makes hip-grinding coital motions as O'Brien leads him away.

QUINTANA

You got a date Wednesday, man!

Walter, his head cocked, and the Dude, peeking over his shades, watch him go.

WALTER

He's cracking.

BOWLING ALLEY PARKING LOT

holding

Donny, Walter and the Dude emerge from the alley, each his leatherette ball satchel.

WALTER

A tree of life, Dude. To all who cling to it.

coming

They react to the droning synthesizer-based technopop from a boom box.

REVERSE

in

them

been

burning

Dieter, Kieffer and Franz, in shiny black leather, stand a line facing them in the all-but-deserted lot. Behind orange flames lick gently at the Dude's car, which has been put to the torch. The orange flames glow on the men's creaking leather. Next to the car are three motorcycles, parked in a neat row. The Dude looks sadly at the car.

DUDE

They finally did it. They killed my fucking car.

DIETER

Vee vant zat money, Lebowski.

KIEFFER

Ja, uzzervize vee kill ze girl.

FRANZ

Ja, it seems you forgot our little

deal, Lebowski.

DUDE

You don't have the fucking girl,
dipshits. We know you never did.
So you've got nothin' on my Johnson.

DUDE

The men in black, stunned, confer amongst themselves in
German. Under his breath:

DONNY

Are these the Nazis, Walter?

three
Walter answers, also sotto voce, his eyes still on the
men:

WALTER

They're nihilists, Donny, nothing to
be afraid of.

The Germans stop conferring.

DIETER

Vee don't care. Vee still vant zat
money or vee fuck you up.

KIEFFER

Ja, vee still vant ze money. Vee
sreaten you.

He pulls an uzi from under his coat. It glints in the
firelight.

WALTER

Fuck you. Fuck the three of you.

DUDE

Hey, cool it Walter.

Walter ignores the Dude, addresses the Germans:

WALTER

There's no ransom if you don't have
a fucking hostage. That's what ransom
is. Those are the fucking rules.

DIETER

Zere ARE no ROOLZ!

WALTER

NO RULES! YOU CABBAGE-EATING SONS-
OF- BITCHES--

KIEFFER

His girlfriend gafe up her toe! She
sought we'd be getting million
dollars! Iss not fair!

WALTER
Fair! WHO'S THE FUCKING NIHILIST
HERE! WHAT ARE YOU, A BUNCH OF
FUCKING CRYBABIES?!

DUDE
Hey, cool it Walter. Listen, pal,
there never was any money. The big
Lebowski gave me an empty briefcase,
man, so take it up with him.

WALTER
AND I'D LIKE MY UNDIES BACK!

The Germans confer again, in German.

Donny is visibly frightened.

DONNY
Are they gonna hurt us, Walter?

WALTER 'S TONE IS GENTLE:

WALTER
They won't hurt us, Donny. These
men are cowards.

THE CONFERENCE ENDS:

DIETER
Okay. Vee take ze money you haf on
you und vee call it eefen.

WALTER
Fuck you.

The Dude is digging into his pocket.

DUDE
Come on, Walter, we're ending this
thing cheap.

Walter's eyes, burning with hatred, are locked on
Dieter's.

WALTER
What's mine is mine.

DUDE
Come on, Walter!.

Louder, to the Germans, as he looks in his wallet:

DUDE
Four dollars here!

He inspects the change in his palm.

DUDE
Almost five!

DONNY
(tremulously)
I got eighteen dollars, Dude.

WALTER
(grimly)
What's mine is mine.

With a ring of steel, Dieter produces a glinting saber.

DIETER
VEE FUCK YOU UP, MAN! VEE TAKE YOUR
MONEY!

WALTER
(coolly)
Come and get it.

DIETER
VEE FUCK YOU UP, MAN!

WALTER
Come and get it. Fucking nihilist.

DIETER
I FUCK YOU! I FUCK YOU!

WALTER
Show me what you got. Nihilist.
Dipshit with a nine-toed woman.

In a rage, Dieter charges.

DIETER
I FUCK YOU! I FUCK YOU!

WALTER
hurls his leather satchel.

KIEFFER

bowling Watching Dieter's charge, is caught off-guard. The
ball thuds into his chest and lifts him off his feet.
He falls back, his uzi clattering away.

WALTER
twists away as Dieter reaches him; grabs Dieter's head in
both hands; draws Dieter's head up to his mouth, which
closes on Dieter's ear.

DUDE
He rushes Franz but draws up short as Franz sends out
karate kicks, his leather pants squeaking and popping. Franz
gives

his a loud cry with each kick; the Dude leans back, throwing arms up, evading the kicks.

WALTER

his His jaw is still clamped on Dieter's ear. Dieter draws saber against Walter's side, drawing blood.

jaws Walter doesn't react to the wound. Growling as Dieter screams, he worries his ear, wagging his head with his clamped.

THE SABER

Dieter drops it.

DUDE

Awkwardly circling, evading Franz's kicks.

WALTER

and still worrying the ear. With a tearing sound his head Dieter's separate.

DIETER, EARLESS, SCREAMS:

DIETER
I FUCK YOU! YOU CANNOT HURT ME! I
BELIEF IN NUSSING!

Walter spits his ear into his face.

DUDE

The Dude and Franz, both now panting heavily, have yet to establish body contact. Franz continues to kick.

FRANZ
VEAKLING!

WALTER

draws back his fist.

DIETER
NUSSING!

WALTER
ANTI-SEMITE!

Dieter Bam!--A powerhouse blow to the middle of his face drops for the count.

DUDE AND FRANZ

With a piercing shriek Franz finally summons the nerve to charge the Dude, hands raised to deliver karate blows.

As he reaches the Dude--WHHAP--the boom box swings into frame to smash him in the face. Its volume shoots up.

music
is

Walter bashes him a few more times over the head. The screeches to static, then quiet. Laid out now, Franz too quiet.

All quiet.

Walter, panting, looks around.

WALTER

We've got a man down, Dude.

With a hand pressed to his bleeding side he trots over to Donny, who lies gasping on the ground.

The Dude, also panting, rises and trots over.

DUDE

Hy God! They shot him, Walter!

WALTER

No Dude.

DUDE

They shot Donny!

Donny gasps for air. His eyes, wide, go from the Dude to Walter. One hand still clutches his eighteen dollars.

WALTER

There weren't any shots.

DUDE

Then what's...

WALTER

It's a heart attack.

DUDE

Wha.

WALTER

Call the medics, Dude.

DUDE

Wha. . . Donny--

WALTER

Hurry Dude. I'd go but I'm pumping blood. Might pass out.

hand

The Dude runs into the lanes. Walter lays a reassuring hand on Donny's shoulder.

WALTER
Rest easy, good buddy, you're doing
fine. We got help chopping in.

FADE OUT

HOLD IN BLACK

THE DUDE AND WALTER

nondescript
off
They sit side by side, forearms on knees, in a
waiting area. Walter bounces the fingertips of one hand
those of the other. They sit. They wait.

Walter's
A tall thin man in a conservative black suit enters. He
eyes the Dude's bowling attire and sunglasses and
army surplus, but doesn't make an issue of it.

MAN
Hello, gentlemen. You are the
bereaved?

DUDE
Yeah man.

MAN
Francis Donnelly. Pleased to meet
you.

DUDE
Jeffrey Lebowski.

WALTER
Walter Sobchak.

DUDE
The Dude, actually. Is what, uh.

DONNELLY
Excuse me?

DUDE
Nothing.

DONNELLY
Yes. I understand you're taking
away the remains.

WALTER
Yeah.

DONNELLY
We have the urn.

He nods through a door. Another man in a black suit

enters

to carefully deposit a large silver urn on the desktop.

DONNELLY

And I assume this is credit card?

desk

He is vaguely handing a large leather folder across the
to whomever wants to take it.

WALTER

Yeah.

head

He takes it, opens it, puts on reading glasses that sit
halfway down his nose, and inspects the bill with his
pulled back for focus and cocked for concentration.

Silence.

The Dude smiles at Donnelly. Donnelly gives back a
mortician's smile. At length Walter holds the bill

towards

Donnelly, pointing.

WALTER

What's this?

DONNELLY

That is for the urn.

WALTER

Don't need it. We're scattering the
ashes.

DONNELLY

Yes, so we were informed. However,
we must of course transmit the remains
to you in a receptacle.

WALTER

This is a hundred and eighty dollars.

DONNELLY

Yes sir. It is our most modestly
priced receptacle.

DUDE

Well can we--

WALTER

A hundred and eighty dollars?!

DONNELLY

They range up to three thousand.

WALTER

Yeah, but we're--

DUDE

Can we just rent it from you?

DONNELLY

Sir, this is a mortuary, not a rental house.

WALTER
We're scattering the fucking ashes!

DUDE
Walter--

WALTER
JUST BECAUSE WE'RE BEREAVED DOESN'T
MEAN WE'RE SAPS!

DONNELLY
Sir, please lower your voice--

DUDE
Hey man, don't you have something
else you could put it in?

DONNELLY
That is our most modestly priced
receptacle.

WALTER
GODDAMNIT! IS THERE A RALPH'S AROUND
HERE?!

POINT DUME -- DAY

It is a high, wind-swept bluff. Walter and the Dude walk
towards the lip of the bluff. Parked in the background
is one lonely car, Walter's.

Walter is carrying a bright red coffee can with a blue
plastic lid. When they reach the edge the two men stand
awkwardly for a beat. Finally:

WALTER
I'll say a few words.

The Dude clasps his hands in front of him. Walter clears
his throat.

WALTER
Donny was a good bowler, and a good
man. He was. . . He was one of us.
He was a man who loved the outdoors,
and bowling, and as a surfer explored
the beaches of southern California
from Redondo to Calabassos. And he
was an avid bowler. And a good
friend. He died--he died as so many
of his generation, before his time.
In your wisdom you took him, Lord.
As you took so many bright flowering
young men, at Khe San and Lan Doc
and Hill 364. These young men gave

their lives. And Donny too. Donny
who. . . who loved bowling.

Walter clears his throat.

WALTER
And so, Theodore--Donald--Karabotsos,
in accordance with what we think
your dying wishes might well have
been, we commit your mortal remains
to the bosom of.

Walter is peeling the plastic lid off the coffee can.

WALTER
the Pacific Ocean, which you loved
so well.

AS HE SHAKES OUT THE ASHES:

WALTER
Goodnight, sweet prince.

standing
The wind has blown all of the ashes into the Dude,
just to the side of and behind Walter. The Dude stands,
frozen. Finished eulogizing, Walter looks back.

WALTER
Shit, I'm sorry Dude.

He starts brushing off the Dude with his hands.

WALTER
Goddamn wind.

slapping
Heretofore motionless, the Dude finally explodes,
Walter's hands away.

DUDE
Goddamnit Walter! You fucking
asshole!

WALTER
Dude! Dude, I'm sorry!

The Dude is near tears.

DUDE
You make everything a fucking
travesty!

WALTER
Dude, I'm--it was an accident!

The Dude gives Walter a furious shove.

DUDE
What about that shit about Vietnam!

WALTER
Dude, I'm sorry--

DUDE
What the fuck does Vietnam have to do with anything! What the fuck were you talking about?!

Walter for the first time is genuinely distressed, almost lost.

WALTER
Shit Dude, I'm sorry--

DUDE
You're a fuck, Walter!

He gives Walter a weaker shove. Walter seems dazed, then wraps his arms around the Dude.

WALTER
Awww, fuck it Dude. Let's go bowling.

THE LANES THE DUDE AND WALTER BOWLING

follow
before.

We watch each of them glide across the floor, release, through--gracefully. We have never seen them bowl. They are quite good. Each wears a black armband on his bowling shirt.

BAR AREA

The Dude walks up to the bar.

DUDE
Two oat sodas, Gary.

GARY
Right. Good luck tomorrow.

DUDE
Thanks, man.

GARY
Sorry to hear about Donny.

DUDE
Yeah. Well, you know, sometimes you eat the bear, and, uh.

The

"Tumbling Tumbleweeds" has come up on the jukebox, and Stranger ambles up to the bar.

THE STRANGER
Howdy do, Dude.

DUDE
Oh, hey man, how are ya? I wondered

if I'd see you again.

THE STRANGER
Wouldn't miss the semis. How things
been goin'?

DUDE
Ahh, you know. Strikes and gutters,
ups and downs.

The Stranger's eyes crinkle merrily.

THE STRANGER
Sure, I gotcha.

The bartender has put two gleaming beers on the counter.

DUDE
Thanks, Gary...Take care, man, I
gotta get back.

THE STRANGER
Sure. Take it easy, Dude--I know
that you will.

THE DUDE, LEAVING, NODS:

DUDE
Yeah man. Well, you know, the Dude
abides.

words: Gazing after him, The Stranger drawls, savoring the

THE STRANGER
The Dude abides.

into He gives his head a shake of appreciation, then looks
the camera.

THE STRANGER
I don't know about you, but I take
comfort in that. It's good knowin'
he's out there, the Dude, takin' her
easy for all us sinners. Shoosh. I
sure hope he makes The finals. Welp,
that about does her, wraps her all
up. Things seem to've worked out
pretty good for the Dude'n Walter,
and it was a purt good story, dontcha
think? Made me laugh to beat the
band. Parts, anyway. Course--I
didn't like seein' Donny go. But
then, happen to know that there's a
little Lebowski on the way. I guess
that's the way the whole durned human
comedy keeps perpetuatin' it-self,
down through the generations, westward
the wagons, across the sands a time
until-- aw, look at me, I'm ramblin'

again. Wal, uh hope you folks enjoyed
yourselves.

pull He brushes his hat brim with a fingertip as we begin to
back.

THE STRANGER
Catch ya further on down the trail.

his As we pull away The Stranger swivels in to the bar. As
voice fades:

THE STRANGER
...Say friend, ya got any more a
that good sarsaparilla?...