PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Tim is sitting on the ground in the parking lot. A six pack sits beside him. There is an empty six pack next to it. He is reading a tabloid with Randy’s picture on one side of the cover, and a triceratops on the other. The beam of a flashlight cuts the dark.

CHRIS
You’re trespass... Tim?

TIM
Hey.

CHRIS
You here again?

TIM
Yup.

CHRIS
What are you doing?

TIM
Drinking beer. Reading. Waiting for you. Did you know they now say the Triceratops never existed?

CHRIS
Waiting for me?

TIM
Yeah. How can that be? How can they just say a dinosaur, my favorite dinosaur never existed. You want a beer?

CHRIS
Sure. Triceratops was your favorite?

TIM
Yeah.

CHRIS
Ok.(laugh) Whatever.

TIM
What’s wrong with Triceratops?

CHRIS
Nothing. Cept it's a girl’s dinosaur.

TIM
Other than calling bullshit, cause the triceratops was badass, I’m not having that conversation.

Tim hands him a beer.

What’s up?

Working.

Oh yeah, sure. Good.

What’s up with you?

I hope to get drunk.

Hope?

Yeah.

Why not stop hoping and just do it.

I’m not as good at it as you might think.

Ain’t a sport, just tip a can. Here let me show you.

They clink cans and down a beer.

Thanks for the lesson.

Ain’t nothing. Just years of practice.

So...I’ve been waiting for you.

You said.

Thought we could talk.
CHRIS
Ok.

TIM
Don’t really want to be here.

CHRIS
Then what’re you doing here?

TIM
Trying to remember some things.

What kinda things?

CHRIS
Like high school things.

TIM
Oh yeah. I do that a lot working here. Reflect. Those days are pretty hazy. Smoked too much weed, drank too much. Wish I remembered more. Think I was pretty happy. Why is it you were looking for me?

TIM
Maybe you know something.

What?

CHRIS
Were we friends?

TIM
What you mean?

CHRIS
In high school. Were we friends?

TIM
I guess. I mean...we didn’t swim in the same pool or nothing but...

That’s funny.

CHRIS
What?

TIM
I always thought of you as a friend.

CHRIS
Then I guess we were.
TIM
Can it be one sided?

CHRIS
What you mean?

TIM
You never said you were my friend.

CHRIS
I said I guess.

TIM
That’s not a yes.

CHRIS
Damn boy. Yes. Alright. We were friends. We hung out. Smoked reefer. Drank Micky’s big mouths. I even remember when we were real little...before Jr high, when we would look for crawdads in that crick down by the elementary school.

TIM
I remember that.

CHRIS
Yeah you do.

TIM
Did everything change?

CHRIS
Always does.

TIM
I guess.

CHRIS
Happens to everybody. No shame. It’s natural.

TIM
Yeah.

CHRIS
Look it don’t matter if it was this way or that, if it’s the way you remember it, that’s the way it is. So if you remember us friends. We were.

TIM
Me and Shannon were good friends.

CHRIS
Yeah, I member.
TIM
Can I tell you something secret?

CHRIS
Let’s not get too intimate here.

TIM
You said we were friends.

CHRIS
Yeah but this sounds like dear diary shit.

TIM
I had a huge crush on her in high school.

CHRIS
Oh. That’s all?

TIM
That’s all?

CHRIS
Shit, Everybody knew that.

TIM
They did? Everybody?

CHRIS
Yeah. You told everyone.

TIM
So...most likely everybody knew.

CHRIS
Yeah. You’d talk to anyone that would listen about the woes of wanting Shannon. You also spent everyday at her house for like two Summers. Why you telling me this?

Tim cracks another beer and hands one to Chris.

TIM
Why were you such an asshole to Randy the other night?

CHRIS
Cause Randy and I, unlike you and I, were never friends.

TIM
See that’s funny.

CHRIS
What?
TIM
It’s not true. I remember being with you and Randy. At his home getting high.

CHRIS
Yeah? So. Maybe we did. You smoke with who got the weed. Anyway...that was before...

TIM
Before? Before what?

CHRIS
Before he...we got older and-

TIM
No. No. That’s not what you were gonna a say. Before what?

CHRIS
Nothing. I don’t know. Shit was a long time ago.

What was before?

CHRIS
Listen, I’m off soon, and my rides gonna be here so I gotta-

TIM
Hold on.

What?

CHRIS
You can’t just leave.

I gotta go.

TIM
Tell me what happened to Shannon.

Chris stops.

CHRIS
Not my business to be talking about.

You have to.

CHRIS
I do not. Ask her.

I can’t.
CHRIS
Why not?

TIM
She’s the source. I can’t go to the source.

CHRIS
Why?

TIM
Sources are unreliable. If there’s something real important you need to know, but it’s based around something awful that happened to someone, you can’t go to the person it happened to. You go to her security guard, reefer smoking, beer drinking cousin.

CHRIS
This is her business and I respect that shit. You can’t just give me a beer, call me a friend, and think I’ll... This is not for me to talk about.

Tim cracks another beer and holds it out for Chris.

TIM
It is for you to talk about.

Chris walks over and takes the beer.

No it ain’t.

CHRIS
Tim cracks one for himself.

TIM
Why? Why can’t you tell me?

CHRIS
Y’all just see me as a dumb hick, I know-

I don’t-

CHRIS
Maybe you don’t, but I know most do. I know how people see me. I can tell. It’s cool. I grew up here. This is my home and I got no desire to leave. I love it. This place cradles me like a baby and gives me reasons everyday to be glad about what I was born into, but see, I got compunction. I’ve lost my job. Or whatever you call it. Career. What I did. That ain’t never coming back. Tobacco. That’s done. It’s cool though, cause I think I finally got over the anger that someone else made that decision for me. That instead of me deciding to quit it was taken.
Least I know I was working for people that didn’t give a shit about the well being of others. I didn’t believe that then, and it took me a long time to be able to say out loud that I did. No one likes to admit that sort of thing. So you could say I’ve lost a great deal. Generations of my family worked in agriculture. Look at me. I’m a security guard. Through all that, I kept a respect for the way I lived. Got a family. A baby. You know that?

TIM

No.

CHRIS

Little over a year. Sweetest thing you ever saw. That’s why I’m here. That’s why I do what I do for work. It’s legal, got benefits, and I get to be with my family. People trust me. I’m a trust worthy person. Don’t spill people’s secrets, I keep em, like I say I’m gonna. See, I got compunction.

Moment.

TIM

She told me.

CHRIS

What?

TIM

She-

CHRIS

So why’re you asking me?

TIM

I remember what she was like.

CHRIS

How?

TIM

She got around. Was with a lot of boys.

CHRIS

So. That don’t mean shit. You ask him?

TIM

Yeah.

Silence.
CHRIS

Look I didn’t see it or hear it. Just felt something. And I know her too. How she was. But before that night she was different. No doubt. She was in Randy’s car. I knew what that meant. I knew what happened when a girl went in his car. I don’t think that’s breaking any trust. It’s not anything she said. Shit man, I was here when she got in.

TIM

You were here?

CHRIS

Yeah.

TIM

That night?

CHRIS

Yeah. Right over there. (He points)

TIM

I was here too.

CHRIS

I remember. Night of that big storm. We got fucked up. Got so drunk that night I thought I made the trees came down and the power go off. You all brought that Japanese guy.

TIM

Who was the Japanese guy?

CHRIS

I think he was Tommy Tanaka’s uncle visiting from Japan. Partied with us all night. Didn’t speak a lick a English, but man he could sure as shit hold his liquor. Funny thing. Ran into Tommy not to long ago, says after that night, when he got back to Japan, his uncle quit his office job to run a karaoke bar, and when he asked him about it, why he suddenly did a life 180, he couldn’t remember.

TIM

Really?

CHRIS

Yeah. Remembers his trip here but that’s it. No storm or nothing. Just forgot. Huge life change cause of something that night, and he has no idea why. Crazy shit.

TIM

I don’t seem to remember anything either.

CHRIS

I wanted to put my foot in Randy’s ass but Shannon stopped me. Said she could take care of herself.
Didn’t need a watchdog. Blame myself sometimes for not acting more then. Girl might be my cousin but she’s like a sister to me. I know she liked her men, but... She was different before. Sort a pure. After that night she started sleeping around with bad dudes. Older married dudes. Drinking a lot. I heard rumors about her. Stuff she was doing. Maybe we were friends, Randy and me, but after that night, I didn’t like him no more.

TIM
So she never said? She never said the words to you?

CHRIS
What? That he raped her? Naw. No one did. Decent people just don’t say those things out loud.

TIM
Is that what she thought?

CHRIS
I venture that’s what her Mama told her to think. So she did. Look, we all got lit that night. Just like every other Saturday night. And she went with a boy that night, like every other Saturday night.

TIM
So you don’t think it’s true?

CHRIS
Naw. I do. Just...I walked in on her with a boy once. Went over to their house and went in like I owned the place. She didn’t see me. They were in the living room, on the couch. Long before whatever happened with Randy. This boy had his hand down her pants, and she was making little noises. Little moans. Before I’d really done much with a girl so it was...memorable. Anyway, I stood there for a second and then snuck out. Waited for them to finish and him to leave. I saw her kick him out cause she was done. She’d finished. Got what she wanted. Then I went back in and pretended I just got there. You know what she did to me?

TIM
What?

CHRIS
Came up, whispered in my ear, “Enjoy the Show?”

TIM
She knew you were there?

CHRIS
Yeah. She did. But that’s not the point. Point is, she was in total control at all times. She understood it. Used it. Always did from the time she was young.
Randy took some of that control from her. I don’t know how, but I know he did. I know he hurt her.