

Homesick

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Final Draft

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD-DUSK

JOHN JR. and TUESDAY are driving through a pleasant neighborhood. The sun sets and casts long shadows over the road.

EXT. JOHN JR.'S HOME-DUSK

John Jr. and Tuesday drive up to the front of a small house.

JOHN JR.
(to himself)
Home.

They pull into the driveway. John Jr.'s MOTHER exits the house and greets her son with excitement.

MOTHER
John Jr.! Welcome home!

JOHN JR.
Hi, Mom!

They hug. Tuesday now exits the car.

JOHN JR. (cont'd)
Oh, Mom, this is... my friend,
Tuesday.

MOTHER
Tuesday. Well, it's nice to meet you.

They shake hands.

TUESDAY
(uncomfortable)
I've heard a lot about you.

John Jr. and Tuesday get their luggage from the hatchback.

JOHN JR.
Where's Dad?

MOTHER
He's flying back tomorrow.

JOHN JR.
From where?

MOTHER
Denver.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN JR.

Oh. Well, it'll be good to see him.

They start toward the house.

JOHN JR. (cont'd)

I can't wait to relax.

MOTHER

Oh, John-

Suddenly, long time friends RAY-RAY, MIKE and JANET exit the house.

RAY-RAY

Johnny! How are you?

Ray-Ray grabs and hugs John Jr.

JOHN JR.

Ray-Ray! Fine. Great.

RAY-RAY

It's good to see you.

John Jr. moves to Mike.

JOHN JR.

Mike!

Mike and John Jr. hug.

MIKE

Hey Johnny.

TUESDAY

(to Ray-Ray)

Hello, my name is Tuesday.

RAY-RAY

Tuesday. Nice to meet you, I'm Ray-Ray.

TUESDAY

Ray-Ray.

MIKE

You're looking real good, Johnny.
Success seems to agree with you.

JOHN JR.

Yeah, it does. You're looking great yourself.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

John Jr. goes to Janet, Tuesday moves to Mike.

TUESDAY
(to Mike)
Hello, I'm Tuesday.

MIKE
Excuse me?

TUESDAY
My name is Tuesday. I'm a friend of
John's.

MIKE
Tuesday. I'm Mike... an old friend of
Johnny's.

Janet suddenly moves into John Jr., kissing him with
passion.

JANET
Welcome home, Johnny.

JOHN JR.
Well, um, Janet... it's been a while.
Um, thank you.

Tuesday moves next to John Jr., concerned.

JOHN JR. (cont'd)
(notices Tuesday)
Oh! Janet, this is my friend,
Tuesday.

TUESDAY
Tuesday.

JOHN JR.
This is Janet.

JANET
Hello.

TUESDAY
Hi.

MOTHER
Why don't we go inside.

JOHN JR.
(relieved by the distraction)
Yes!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

They start to enter the house.

RAY-RAY
My wife watches that soap of your's
everyday.

MIKE
Yeah, me too.

JOHN JR.
That's too bad.

MIKE
No. We love it. My favorite one was
the time...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-EVENING

All of them are seated about the room, drinking beer,
remembering old times.

RAY-RAY
And so I pick up the dead snake and
start twirling it above my head...
everyone goes running! I whip it
around, let it go and it wraps right
around Johnny's head!

They all laugh.

RAY-RAY (cont'd)
(laughing)
I will never forget that!

JOHN JR.
Well, I've been trying to for years.

MIKE
Come on, Johnny, you have to admit,
that was funny.

John Jr. laughs to himself.

JOHN JR.
You guys are ass-holes.

Ray-Ray laughs.

JANET
(to John Jr.)
Hey, when do you have to go back?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN JR.
Day after tomorrow.

MIKE
That soon?

JOHN JR.
Yeah.

RAY-RAY
Damn. You pack up the day after high-school graduation, move to New York... you call every once and a while and you're have to leave in two days?

JOHN JR.
(beat)
Yeah.

JANET
Well, it's great to have you here, Johnny. We all miss you a hell of a lot.

RAY-RAY
(lifts his beer)
Cheers to that.

JOHN JR.
Thanks, you guys.

MOTHER
Can I get you anything else?

RAY-RAY
No, shit, it's late.

MIKE
Yeah, my wife's gonna lock me out again.

JOHN JR.
Again?

JANET
Long story.

Mike, Janet and Ray-Ray laugh. John Jr. sits, left out.

MOTHER
Well, I'm going to clean up. Good night.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JANET
Good night.

TUESDAY
(to Mother)
Let me help you.

MOTHER
Thank you.

Tuesday and Mother exit. Janet, Mike and Ray-Ray start to leave.

RAY-RAY
Call me tomorrow.

JOHN JR.
I will.

RAY-RAY
Maybe Mike and I will take you and Bobby in a game of hoops? A little two on two?

MIKE
Tomorrow's bowling night.

RAY-RAY
What about during the day?

MIKE
Oh, yeah.

JOHN JR.
(to Ray-Ray)
I'll call you in the morning. Say hello to Denise for me.

RAY-RAY
Sure thing.

JOHN JR.
Mike, take care.

MIKE
Yeah, see you tomorrow.

JOHN JR.
Yeah.

Janet waits until they have left. She moves into John Jr.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JOHN JR. (cont'd)
 (uncomfortable)
 Janet...

She pins him against the wall and kisses him passionately.

JANET
 Remember?

JOHN JR.
 Are you kidding?

JANET
 Good.

JOHN JR.
 Well-

She kisses him again.

JANET
 See you tomorrow, Johnny.

JOHN JR.
 Certainly.

She leaves.

JOHN JR. (cont'd)
 Good night.

He closes the door, collects himself, then exits the room.

INT. KITCHEN-LATE NIGHT

The room is dark and quiet. The light from the refrigerator illuminates the room as John Jr. searches for a midnight snack. He grabs the milk and some chocolate cake, crossing to the kitchen table.

He turns on the light and goes to the cabinet, clumsily pulling out a cereal bowl. He quickly gathers a knife and spoon and moves over to the dining room table.

MOTHER
 John Jr., is that you?

JOHN JR.
 Oh, Mom, I'm sorry.

John Jr. pours milk into the bowl with the cake.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MOTHER

No, that's all right, that's all right. If you wanted something to eat I would have fixed it for you.

JOHN JR.

No, Mom. That's okay.

Mother sits opposite John Jr.

MOTHER

You always did like chocolate cake in milk.

JOHN JR.

Yeah.

MOTHER

You got that from your father. When you were just a small boy, you and your father would sneak into the kitchen at night and eat the rest of the chocolate cake.

John Jr. pushes away the bowl.

MOTHER (cont'd)

Remember those God-awful bowls with the flowers and... what's wrong?

JOHN JR.

Nothing.

MOTHER

Can I get you anything?

JOHN JR.

No...

Mother stands.

MOTHER

Let me get you something. Some Tums?
Or-

JOHN JR.

No, I'm-

MOTHER

(overlapping)
-some warm milk? Can-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOHN JR.
(overlapping)
-fine, no.

She starts walking to the kitchen.

MOTHER
(overlapping)
I get you-

JOHN JR.
(overlapping)
No-

MOTHER
(overlapping)
-a glass of water?

JOHN JR.
Fine.

MOTHER
A glass of water?

JOHN JR.
Yes, fine.

MOTHER
You sure you don't want some tums?

JOHN JR.
No. Water's fine.

MOTHER
All right.

She goes into the kitchen.

MOTHER (cont'd)
How is everything?

The glass is filled with cold water.

JOHN JR.
Great. My character hasn't died yet.

MOTHER
Yes, that's good.

JOHN JR.
I should be safe for the next few
months. I start having a relationship
with Xavier Sterling.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MOTHER

The metermaid?

JOHN JR.

You know, the woman who just had a double-stroke and came back to tell of her near-death experience.

MOTHER

Oh, yes!

She hands the water to John Jr.

JOHN JR.

Well, we get involved while tracking a man who supposedly killed seventeen women.

MOTHER

Oh my!

She sit back down opposite John Jr. at the table.

JOHN JR.

Yeah... one of the murdered girls told her who the killer was before Xavier was pulled back to earth right as she was about to enter heaven.

MOTHER

(awed)

Oh...

JOHN JR.

It should have been hell.

MOTHER

Isn't tracking a killer a little risky for a metermaid?

JOHN JR.

Well, she's trying to impress her first husband, the Chief of Police-

MOTHER

Matt Studwell.

JOHN JR.

Right... and become the new detective replacing-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

MOTHER

Replacing Rake Muscleton who was
killed by the rabid cat.

JOHN JR.

(smiles)

Right. I didn't know you followed the
show that closely.

MOTHER

Certainly. I watch it everyday!

She moves into the kitchen to get a wet cloth.

MOTHER (cont'd)

And I tape it, that way-

JOHN JR.

(interrupting)

That should keep my character alive at
least for the next few paychecks.

Mother starts wiping off the kitchen counter.

MOTHER

That's good... how's everything else?

JOHN JR.

Good. Can't complain.

MOTHER

Where'd you meet Sunday?

JOHN JR.

Tuesday.

MOTHER

Not when. Where.

JOHN JR.

That's her name.

MOTHER

Oh, yes, Tuesday.

JOHN JR.

She started on the soap last week.
She plays Rake's illegitimate daughter
who comes back to get the inheritance
from Maxi.

Mother moves to table and starts wiping it off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

MOTHER

She seems like a nice girl.

JOHN JR.

She's... nice, yeah.

MOTHER

A little too... untamed, but nice.

JOHN JR.

She's a nice girl, Mother.

MOTHER

I know John Jr. I just think-

JOHN JR.

Just think she's not up to your lofty standards?

MOTHER

I didn't-

JOHN JR.

Or Dad's standards?

MOTHER

I didn't say that, John Jr.

JOHN JR.

Look, Mother, I like her. I live with her. It's not your business who I see.

MOTHER

It is when she comes into my house.

JOHN JR.

Fine, we'll leave in the morning!

MOTHER

No! You just got home John Jr. My God, this is the first time I've seen you in two years. Besides, your father's flying in tomorrow.

There is a long silence. Mother takes the bowl into the kitchen, then hesitantly comes back into the room.

MOTHER (cont'd)

What's wrong?

JOHN JR.

Nothing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

MOTHER

Whether you and... Tuesday want to
leave is up to you. I'm going to bed.

She starts to leave.

JOHN JR.

(stopping her)

It was strange seeing everyone again.
Everyone looks different... and the
same. I felt out of place... like I
didn't belong.

MOTHER

If you don't belong at home, with your
friends, where do you belong?

JOHN JR.

I don't know.

MOTHER

(beat)

They really miss you... we all do.

JOHN JR.

Especially Janet. She certainly
hasn't changed.

MOTHER

(laughs)

No, she hasn't!

(beat)

Your father has filled out since the
last time you saw him.

JOHN JR.

Really.

MOTHER

Yes. He looks much better. He's done
very well.

JOHN JR.

Yeah, how's Bobby doing?

MOTHER

Your brother is fine. His business is
growing faster than this town.

JOHN JR.

Everything has changed...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

MOTHER

But you know Bobby. He's always one step ahead of the world.

Mother starts wiping the table again.

JOHN JR.

I haven't been able to get in touch with him for... quite a while. Too long.

She starts wiping the table directly in front of John Jr.

MOTHER

Why don't you stop by his office tomorrow?

JOHN JR.

I... I will.

MOTHER

Your father was wondering if you and Bobby would like to-

JOHN JR.

Will you stop that?

MOTHER

What?

JOHN JR.

You haven't stopped cleaning since-

MOTHER

I like to clean. You know that.

JOHN JR.

Just stop!

She stops, stunned by his tone.

JOHN JR. (cont'd)

Every time I come home you're always-

MOTHER

Every time! You have only been home twice since you moved.

JOHN JR.

I have a very busy schedule.

She picks up his glass and moves to the kitchen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

JOHN JR. (cont'd)
I wasn't done with that.

MOTHER
It's empty.

JOHN JR.
I know. I was about to get some more.

MOTHER
You want some more water? I'll get it for you.

He rises and moves to her.

JOHN JR.
No, I'll get it.

MOTHER
I don't mind.

JOHN JR.
Well, I do.

MOTHER
Just sit down and let me-

JOHN JR.
Give me the damn glass!

MOTHER
(beat)
What's wrong?

He takes the glass and places it into the sink. Tears start to form in Mother's eyes.

MOTHER (cont'd)
My God, John. What do I have to do?
Can't I-

JOHN JR.
Mom, what?

MOTHER
Every time I talk to you, you criticize me. You're always telling me I work too hard, clean too much.
Don't I-

JOHN JR.
Mother.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

She moves toward him.

MOTHER

Everything I say you take as an
insult, every time I try to get close,
you run away.

He turns from her.

JOHN JR.

No.

MOTHER

It's been that way since graduation.
We planned a big party, everyone was
there and you never showed up. You
had the grace to call from New York.
You didn't tell anyone. You just
left.

JOHN JR.

It wasn't because of you, Mother.

MOTHER

Then why?

JOHN JR.

I couldn't stay.

MOTHER

Your father?

He nods Yes and walks past her, back into the dining
room.

MOTHER (cont'd)

Yes.

(beat)

He's changed... he's sorry. Time
heals all wounds.

JOHN JR.

Not the ones inside.

MOTHER

Are you sure you're letting them heal?

JOHN JR.

What?

MOTHER

Are you letting them heal?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

JOHN JR.

They can't... not by themselves.

MOTHER

What do you want from him?

JOHN JR.

Anything!

(beat)

...anything.

John Jr. moves to a desk area where there are many pictures of John in plays. He picks up one of the them.

JOHN JR. (cont'd)

You know, when I was in my first play I tried so hard... remember? I got the lead in the high-school play? I worked so hard. I worked at the store, I did my homework, I learned my lines, I worked...

(beat)

And on opening night I was so nervous. I thought I was going to puke at any minute. But I got through it... I got through it. And when it was over, all the people were applauding. For me... And I looked out to find you. I saw you and Bobby standing and clapping... the only two standing. But, Dad wasn't there. I didn't want to think where he was. But I was happy.

MOTHER

John Jr., your father was-

JOHN JR.

No. I went backstage and there he was. Holding onto one of the curtains. I stopped and he looked at me.... he said "Nice try, son. Maybe next time." And he stumbled away.

He carefully puts the picture down. She moves to him.

JOHN JR. (cont'd)

The audience was still clapping, but it didn't mean anything.

MOTHER

That was the alcohol talking.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (11)

JOHN JR.
Partly! But it was part Dad too!

MOTHER
He didn't mean it.

JOHN JR.
Me meant it, that son-of-a-bitch!

He walks away.

MOTHER
Now you listen to me, John Jr. You may not respect him as your father, but you damn well better respect him as my husband!

He stops. There is a moment of tense silence. She steps toward him.

MOTHER (cont'd)
What do you want from him? He can't change the past. No one can.
(beat)
What do you want from him?

JOHN JR.
I want... I want him to be proud of me!

MOTHER
Proud?

JOHN JR.
Yes. I just want him to be proud of me. Proud of what I've done. Of who I am.

MOTHER
Oh, John Jr., he is... he's ashamed of-

JOHN JR.
Ashamed?

MOTHER
Yes. Ashamed of what he's done to you, and Bobby... and to me.

JOHN JR.
He hurt me. He hurt me so much.

She moves to him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (12)

MOTHER

He hurt all of us. But we have to let go.

JOHN JR.

I hurt him so much.

MOTHER

You have to let it go.

(beat)

Do you know, when your first show came on he made everyone at the store stop whatever they were doing and watch. He brought the TV from home and set it up on top of that platform and made everyone sit on the paint cans and watch.

JOHN JR.

He did?

MOTHER

Yes. He tapes the show everyday. And he still has it showing at work everyday.

JOHN JR.

Oh.

MOTHER

He misses you, John Jr. An awful lot.

JOHN JR.

(beat)

I miss him too.

They hug tightly.

JOHN JR. (cont'd)

Well, I should be getting to bed.

(beat)

Mom?

MOTHER

Yes?

JOHN JR.

What time does his plane come in?

MOTHER

Six fifteen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (13)

JOHN JR.
Can I pick him up? Alone?

MOTHER
Yes.
(beat)
I'll wake up early and make you
breakfast.

JOHN JR.
No-

MOTHER
Yes. And I'll get Sunday, ah,
Wednesday-

JOHN JR.
Tuesday.

MOTHER
Tuesday to help me. She can cook,
can't she?

JOHN JR.
No.

MOTHER
No?

JOHN JR.
I think she can make spaghetti... if
she remembers to boil the water.

MOTHER
Oh.

JOHN JR.
(chuckles)
Yeah...
(beat)
Well, good night. You coming?

MOTHER
No, I want to finish my coffee.

He starts to leave, but turns around.

JOHN JR.
Mom?

MOTHER
Yes?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (14)

JOHN JR.

(beat)

It's good to be home... Good night.

MOTHER

Good night, John Jr.

FADE OUT.