

Scene 1

Midnight, a lake-house in New Hampshire.

The house is small and has a modern-cabin look to it. Inside the house there's a living area, a kitchen, and a spiral staircase that leads to a second floor. It's a nice place but not extravagant. Cozy and calm, the property sits directly next to a lake, which can be heard at most times, "whooshing" and "whirring". There are plenty of windows and plenty of light beams into the house.

On this particular evening there is a minimal amount of light coming from an outside source.

There's a small analog clock, on a bookshelf, that's always ticking. The sound from the ticking clock is almost inaudible. The clock is always ticking, the sound is always there.

Smoke begins to bellow into the house. This continues until little can be seen.

The smoke slowly dissipates, leaving the scene its normal self.

Lights up.

4:30 PM, the sun radiates through the windows. It's a beautiful day on the lake.

SEAN unlocks the front door and enters, DAVID follows suit. DAVID is carrying a small suitcase behind him. DAVID is wearing a breathable long-sleeve t-shirt, jeans, and sneakers. SEAN is wearing a "business casual" button-down shirt, jeans, and loafers.

SEAN

So Maddie will be out of town, til Friday. If you could water the plants til she gets back that would be great. I'll show you how to do that.

DAVID

Yes absolutely can do that. Sea . ? . This is gorgeous.

SEAN

Yeah it's not too shabby.

DAVID

The pictures you sent didn't do it justice.

DAVID places his suitcase in a corner of the room.

DAVID

Is it alright if I put this here?

SEAN

Yeah that's fine. You're in the guest room upstairs. Or feel free to stay in our room if you want. (He motions up the spiral staircase.)

DAVID

Well, look at that.

SEAN

It's funky, huh?

DAVID

(Laughs) It is.

SEAN

Well, make yourself at home. (Walking into the kitchen) You want a beer?

DAVID

Sure.

A beat.

SEAN

I don't have to leave for another few hours. Sorry for the sort of a hello, goodbye situation. Maddie will be back on Friday and I'll be back on . . . Saturday night. Late.

SEAN opens the refrigerator door.

SEAN

What do you want? We got "Modelo" and "Heinekin". Oh and some IPA that Maddie's Dad left when they visited.

DAVID

Modelo's great. Thanks.

SEAN grabs two beers from the refrigerator.

SEAN

I feel bad that we're not around much this week.
(Handing a beer to DAVID) Life is too crazy with work
shit.

DAVID

No worries.

SEAN

I've been traveling almost nonstop and Maddie's been
swamped at her office. I barely ever even get a
chance to come out here. We've had the place for um
two, over two years now, and I think I've only been
out here like eight times. But next week we'll be
able to hang out. My phone'll be off. I'll be off the
clock and we can just relax and talk, and drink.

DAVID

Sounds great. And no worries at all about leaving me
alone. I'm looking forward to getting some writing
done, at least a bit.

SEAN

Well I'm glad. Good. As long as you don't burn the
house down we should be good.

DAVID

I'll try my darnedest not to.

SEAN laughs. A beat.

SEAN

Sit down. Sit down. Make yourself at home. I still
have a little bit of packing to do but I don't have
to do it quite yet.

DAVID takes a seat in a big wicker chair.

SEAN

What're you writing?

DAVID

I don't know yet. I'm hoping with how beautiful it is
here, it'll be able to jog some good ideas. I have
quite a few ideas. Nothing fully formed at the moment
though. A lot of half-ideas and half-concepts.

A beat.

SEAN

It really is nice isn't it?

DAVID

It's gorgeous. Really lovely. You guys'r really living the life.

SEAN

I know. I can't believe this is your first time here. It's embarrassing. You know you're welcome any time. Any time.

DAVID

I know. Thank you.

SEAN

I mean it. Any time you're free, come up. And maybe next time around we'll actually be here to entertain you.

DAVID

(Laughs) You'll be here.

SEAN walks to the kitchen, haphazardly straightening the room as he goes.

SEAN

Yeah. I'm sure it'll be nice not to have any distractions from your writing. And you're right, we'll be here next weekend and we can hang out then.

DAVID stands up and walks to the window, peering out at the massive lake outside.

DAVID

Is it okay to go swimming out here?

SEAN

Yeah. Definitely. I haven't gone yet actually though, I'm embarrassed to say. You can go in right off the dock there. (He points out the window.)

DAVID

I didn't bring a suit. I'll just have to go skinny dipping I guess.

SEAN

(Laughs) Fine by me. We don't have any nosy neighbors that I know about.

A beat.

And if we do, let me know. It'd be good to know about that sort of thing.

DAVID

(Laughs) Will do.

SEAN

Just don't drown. We have water wings in the hall closet, and don't hesitate to use them.

DAVID

Deal.

SEAN

Someone actually did drown in the lake, so I guess it's not really a funny joke for me to be making.

DAVID

Really?

SEAN

It was before we moved in. It was a kid. A young boy. It's very sad.

DAVID

Damn.

SEAN

Yeah.

DAVID

Do the parents, does the family still live around here?

SEAN

I don't know. I've only heard the story second hand. It was big news around here at the time apparently.

A beat.

SEAN

Are you hungry?

DAVID

I'm alright. Thanks. I ate before the flight. There's something about airport food.

SEAN

Oh yeah?

DAVID

Yeah.

SEAN

You like the food at the airport?

DAVID

Yeah. There's just something about eating at the airport that I like.

SEAN

The plastic silverware?

DAVID

(Laughs) That must be it.

SEAN

Well, I'll take your word for it.

A beat.

SEAN

How're things at home?

DAVID

Fine. It's nice to get away. But it's fine.

SEAN

Come any time.

DAVID gets back into his chair and leans back. He closes his eyes and takes a sip from his beer.

DAVID

Where are you heading off to?

SEAN

Phoenix, Arizona.

DAVID looks up and makes a face.

SEAN

I know.

DAVID

Why?

SEAN

There's money to be made brother.

DAVID

Hands to be shaken?

SEAN

Hands to be shaken. Schmoozers to be schmoozed.

DAVID

Schmoozies?

SEAN

Yes exactly, schmoozies.

DAVID

Just don't go. Hang out with brother.

SEAN

Good idea.

SEAN walks over to DAVID, taking a seat close to him. He twists off the cap of his beer and takes a sip.

SEAN

Airport food huh? (A beat) I hate flying. I'm gonna try to get nice and boozed up before my flight.

DAVID

I don't mind flying too much. Well, unless I have to sit in a middle seat.

SEAN

I'm fine until the (SEAN starts shaking, mimicking turbulence).

DAVID

You don't like the turbulence?

SEAN

Yeah. When I tell people that I don't like to fly they always say, "Yeah, takeoff and landing can be really scary." I don't care about takeoff and landing. Especially landing, at least then I know I'm almost on the ground. What I don't like is shaking around in a giant metal tube miles above the earth.

A beat.

I know it's safer than driving but my brain just doesn't. I can't wrap my head around being that high up in something so heavy. It just doesn't feel natural.

DAVID chuckles.

DAVID

I understand that.

SEAN

It's claustrophobic. You aren't afraid of flying at all?

DAVID

Not really.

SEAN

Lucky you. I fuckin' hate flying.

A beat.

DAVID

It's not that I'm not afraid of flying at all or understand the . . . mechanics of the whole . . . thing. I just don't mind it I guess.

SEAN

You don't mind being afraid of it.

DAVID

I don't know. I guess it's just a nice reminder of being alive. (He Laughs) If I'm afraid I must be afraid to die.

A beat.

SEAN

I don't know if that's a nice reminder. Couldn't you just smell a flower or read a good book or something?

DAVID

(Chuckles) I guess so. You know what I mean though?

SEAN

I guess I do. I'd rather feel alive on the ground though I think. If I have the choice.

DAVID laughs.

A beat.

DAVID

Dad says hi.

SEAN

Oh good. How's he doin'?

DAVID

You know. Adjusting. Like all of us.

SEAN

How are you doin'?

DAVID

You know. Up and down. Pretty good for the most part.

SEAN

Yeah I understand that.

A beat.

SEAN

Are you seeing anybody?

DAVID

Like dating?

SEAN

Yeah.

DAVID

Nope.

A beat.

SEAN

Well . . . It's really good to see you. In person.
You look good.

DAVID

Do I?

SEAN

Yeah. You look good. Healthy.

DAVID

Thanks. I'm trying.

SEAN

Well you look good.

DAVID

Thanks. Running.

SEAN

Is that what it is?

SEAN takes a long sip from his beer.

SEAN

Ahhhh. Fuck it. I better get up and pack now or I'll never do it.

SEAN gets up from his seat.

And I'll end up just sitting here and getting drunk with you and I'll miss my flight.

DAVID

Yes. Do that.

SEAN

That does sound nicer than sitting on an airplane. For seven and a half hours.

SEAN starts up the stairs.

SEAN

Oh and watch out with these stairs. Especially if you've gotten into the uh into the spirits or . . . malted beverages.

DAVID

Have you fallen?

SEAN

(Smiling) A couple times.

DAVID laughs.

DAVID

Hey speaking of, are there any good bars around here I should check out?

SEAN

None that you can really walk to. But it's only like a ten dollar Uber, if that, into Littleton. There's a couple nice places in town, if you're okay with Townies.

DAVID

Cool.

SEAN

I'll just be a few minutes.

SEAN ascends the stairs.

DAVID sits for a moment, drinking his beer and bouncing his leg.

He gets up and goes to his bag. He shuffles through clothes for a moment and retrieves his laptop bag. He comes back to the seat, takes his laptop out and opens it. He tries to turn the computer on, no battery. He takes the power cord out of the bag. He finds a chair close to an outlet and plugs it in. He waits for a moment. The laptop turns on and he fiddles with it.

A minute passes.

SEAN descends the stairs.

DAVID

Which Wifi network are you guys on?

SEAN

Oh it's HAL. H,A,L. The password is Johnson2233. With a capital J.

DAVID

HAL. Johnson2233. With an "H" in Johnson?

SEAN

Yeah.

DAVID

Thanks.

SEAN

Are you on?

DAVID

Yes. Is HAL a "2001" reference?

SEAN

(Chuckles) Yeah. Maddie set it up.

DAVID

I like it.

A beat. DAVID holds the "space bar" on the keyboard.

DAVID

"Open the pod bay doors, HAL."

SEAN

(In a lifeless monotone) "I'm sorry Dave, I'm afraid I can't do that."

DAVID

Get me on the internet, HAL.

A beat. DAVID fiddles with the computer some more. SEAN takes a long look at DAVID.

SEAN

You're really lookin' good, buddy.

DAVID

(Laughs) Thanks.

SEAN

Will you give Dad my love when you talk to him?

DAVID nods.

DAVID

Yes of course. He misses you.

SEAN

He doesn't really know who I am.

DAVID looks up at SEAN.

DAVID

Of course he knows who you are. He asks about you a lot. He misses you.

SEAN

Well, that's good.

DAVID

He asks about Mom a lot too. A fair amount.

SEAN

Huh. (A beat) Yeah. When I get back on Saturday we can talk about next steps maybe. If that's alright? It's not fair for you to have to take care of him.

DAVID

It's not a problem. I was there. I was happy to do it. And anyway, there's nothing to do now. He's not really my responsibility anymore anyway.

SEAN

Well, either way, we can talk about it when I get back. You got the wifi working?

DAVID

Yeah it's working.

SEAN

Good. If it goes out, the box, the uh router, is in Maddie's and my room. If it goes out, just unplugging it and plugging it back in usually works to fix it.

DAVID

The old standby internet-fixing technique.

SEAN laughs.

SEAN

It's good to see you.

DAVID

It's good to be here. Thanks for letting me come stay.

SEAN

Anytime. Really, anytime.

LIGHTS DOWN