

HOLDING THE BRICKS

by
James Cage

Based on the short story "Holding The Bricks"
From the Novella
BACK FROM THE BARDO
by James Cage

TITLE CARD: JULY 4, 1976 - GUADALAJARA, MEXICO

EXT. STREET - GUADALAJARA - EVENING

It is early evening, dusk. It is the middle of the rainy season a hot, muggy July Saturday night.

An American medical student studying in Mexico, JAIME exits a movie theater. Jaime is twenty-seven years old, average height, brown eyes and hair. He is lean and muscular from years of weight training and exercise.

As he walks away, the Marquee *TEATRO REFORMA* is shown. The name of the movie and actor, *VENGA A TOMAR UNA TAZA DE CAFE CON NOSOTROS*, con *UGO TOGNAZZI* are displayed in Spanish.

VARIOUS ANGLES

Jaime strolls down the street, moderately crowded with Mexicans. He is a little tense. His eyes watch everything. Jaime is a loner and shy by nature. Jaime, blends into the streets of Guadalajara.

The background MUSIC is MEXICAN RANCHERO.

Jaime passes half a dozen Men eating tacos at a typical street cart. A joker has lightly scribbled *CARNE DE PERRO* on the side of the cart.

Jaime smiles slightly. He stops at the street corner SIGN, *REFORMA* and *AVENIDA MUNGIA*. A few cars drive by.

EXT. STREET - GUADALAJARA - MOMENTS LATER

A brown 1972 Volkswagen Beetle with California license plates pulls up and a voice shouts.

TOM (V.O.)
Jaime. Jaime!

TOM JENNER, the driver of the Volkswagen, sticks his head out the window. He makes a quick U-turn and pulls the car in front of Jaime.

Jaime opens the door and gets in.

INT. TOM'S VOLKSWAGON - NIGHT

Tom Jenner is also an American medical student studying in Mexico. He is in his early thirties.

He is large in height and weight. Tom works his way through medical school by selling marijuana to the American community in Guadalajara. Tom is arrogant and sure of himself.

TOM

(Midwestern accent)

Jaime, what do you know about cocaine?

JAIME

(Slight North Jersey accent) Not too much, Tom.

American Rock and Roll Music by War plays on the radio. "All my friends know the low rider, The low rider is a little higher, Low rider drives a little slower, Low rider is a real goer."

EXT. STREET - GUADALAJARA - NIGHT

Tom drives the VW through traffic down Avenida La Paz, spins the car around the FIRE-EATER in the middle of the road, cuts a right turn, then zigzags through side streets, passes the PLAZA DEL SOL shopping mall and finally reaches his house. He pulls the car into the driveway. Tom and Jaime get out of the car.

EXT. TOM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tom's home is located in a quiet community behind the shopping mall. His newly built house has chopped glass cemented into the roof with iron bars covering the windows.

INT. LIVING ROOM - TOM'S HOUSE- NIGHT

It is a clean, new room with a sturdy couch, chairs, table and TV set. Mexican rugs hang from the walls and draperies cover the windows. There are medical textbooks in Spanish and English in a bookcase. There is a record player with speakers set on a table.

VARIOUS ANGLES

Tom takes out a record album.

INSERT

Album Cover- ALL DAY MUSIC by War is displayed.

Tom places the record on the phonograph and puts the needle near the middle of the record.

The music softly plays, "There Must Be A Reason."

TOM

Hey, Jaime, how did your exams go?

JAIME

I passed. How did you do?

TOM

I aced them all.

JAIME

Bueno.

TOM

Wait a second, I have something to show you.

Tom sprints away and disappears into his bedroom.

Jaime walks through the living room, stops and inspects the Native American rug hanging from the wall.

Tom reappears with a RICAMESA shopping bag. He pulls two large white bricks from the bag and places them on the table.

TOM (CONT'D)

Each brick is a kilo and ninety-five percent pure cocaine, they cost ten grand each. Do you have a few thousand dollars? I can cut you in for part of the deal.

Jaime looks at the bricks of cocaine. He is surprised and shows some emotion.

JAIME

Selling coke is a lot more dangerous than selling pot. What the hell are you doing with this stuff?

TOM

I can make a lot more money selling coke in the states than selling pot down here.

(Pause)

After I graduate medical school and return to the USA, I want a decent place to live. Resident physicians don't earn much of a salary.

Tom is excited.

TOM (CONT'D)

Listen to me. Once these bricks are in the states, I can cut two bricks into four and get thirty or forty thousand dollars each.

JAIME

I'm not interested in dealing drugs.

(Pause)

Hey Tom, how are you going to get these bricks on the other side of the border?

TOM

That won't be a problem.

Tom goes into the kitchen. He comes back with two TECATE beers. He hands Jaime a can. They sit at the table and drink.

TOM (CONT'D)

Remember that guy, Rob Loesser. Last summer he lived in the apartment next to you.

JAIME

The rich, blond kid from Ohio. The Mexican girls loved Rob and the Mexican guys despised him.

TOM

I sold him two kilos of marijuana.

JAIME

I know.

TOM

I've been in contact with him. He'll go for the deal.

(Pause)

Are you sure you don't want a piece of this?

JAIME

No way. *Ni modo.*

Jaime sighs and sips the beer.

JAIME (CONT'D)

You got these bricks from SERGIO didn't you?

TOM

Yeah. He and his gang from Culiacan are setting up a coke distribution center here in Guadalajara.

Tom points to the bricks on the table.

TOM (CONT'D)

Those two bricks are the first samples.

Jaime looks at Tom and speaks slowly to him.

JAIME

Sergio is a very dangerous man.

TOM

He's just a businessman who has good connections with the Federales.

Tom fluffs off Jaime's warning. He pauses a second, then quickly finishes his beer.

Jaime downs the rest of his beer. Tom gets up and returns with two more Tecates. He throws one to Jaime.

The War album plays, "Nappy Head."

TOM (CONT'D)

Look, I want you to do me a favor. Keep these bricks for me. I am driving to Puerto Vallarta very early in the morning. I have a meeting with Sergio there tomorrow night.

JAIME

Why do you want me to hold the bricks?

TOM

Sergio told me to have you hold the bricks until the deal is complete.

Tom stops talking and thinks.

TOM (CONT'D)

You've known Sergio for a long time, haven't you?

JAIME

I was introduced to Sergio by a mutual friend five years ago.

TOM
That's longer than you've been in
medical school.

JAIME
That's right.

Tom shrugs and smiles. They drink.

The record album plays, "Slippin' into Darkness."

TOM
I'm taking a semester's leave of
absence. I need to make a
distribution connection in the
states.

JAIME
When will you contact me?

TOM
Sergio will contact you when
everything is setup.

Jaime expresses concern on his face.

JAIME
OK, I'll hold the bricks. Give me a
ride to Minerva Circle and I'll
walk to my apartment from there.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - MINERVA CIRCLE - GUADALAJARA - NIGHT

Tom drops Jaime at Minerva Circle in the center of the city.
Traffic is light.

Jaime walks a few blocks down Avenida Vallarta. He passes by
a Ricamesa Food Market Store. He arrives at his upscale hotel
apartment in Suites Andreas. He carries the cocaine bricks in
the Ricamesa shopping bag.

INT. JAIME'S BEDROOM - GUADALAJARA - NIGHT

Jaime's apartment has a small living room and kitchen and a
large bedroom with a king sized bed. Draperies cover the
windows.

Jaime uses a key to unlock the bedroom closet door. He places the Ricamesa bag on an upper shelf and covers it with clothes. The lower shelf stores a few medical texts. He locks the closet.

Jaime gets into bed with a tired and worried expression on his face. He turns off the lights.

INT. JAIME'S BEDROOM - GUADALAJARA - DAWN

Jaime is a light sleeper. He wakes up sweating and disturbed.

JAIME
Aaah!

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT, PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO-NIGHT

TITLE CARD: CAMINO REAL HOTEL, PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO

Tom Jenner is seated at a table with SERGIO and ROB LOESSER. The restaurant is not crowded. July is offseason in Puerto Vallarta.

Sergio is a Mexican-American mid thirties; tall, dark, lean and muscular. He has short cut black hair and dark eyes. He is neat, handsome and serious.

Rob Loesser is early twenties; long blond hair, blue eyes, thin build. He is extremely good looking. He takes one look at Sergio and keeps his mouth shut.

SERGIO
(Very Slight, Mexican Accent)
OK, Tom. The deal is settled.

TOM
Five thousand is in the briefcase.

Rob hands Sergio the briefcase. He quickly looks away from him.

TOM (CONT'D)
I'll wire you the rest of the money
in a few months.

SERGIO
As long as Jaime holds the bricks.
I'll trust you for the rest of the
money.

Sergio shakes hands with Tom and Rob. He leaves the table and exits the restaurant.

ROB
(Midwestern Accent)
That guy Sergio is one dangerous fuck.

TOM
Don't worry about him. He's nothing compared to guys I know in Chicago.

ROB
Why did he want Jaime to hold the coke?

TOM
Because Jaime is an easy going jackoff, who does not do drugs. Sergio is just using him.

ROB
Then we should use Jaime to bring the drugs across the border into the United States.

TOM
Exactly.

EXT. MEDICAL SCHOOL BUILDING - GUADALAJARA - DAY

TITLE CARD: GUADALAJARA MEDICAL SCHOOL - OCTOBER 1971 THREE MONTHS LATER

Jaime, much thinner, stands in front of a medical school building. There are MANY STUDENTS walking from one building to another. The mixture of students is sixty five percent Mexican and thirty five percent American. These percentages are about the same for male and female students.

All the male students have short haircuts. All the female students wear dresses. The weather is cooler in October. Everyone wears a light jacket or sweater.

A MALE STUDENT stops to talk to Jaime.

MALE STUDENT
Jaime, do you know anyone that sells pot?

JAIME
No.

MALE STUDENT
Tom's not here this semester is he?

JAIME
He took the semester off.

MALE STUDENT
Fucking Tom.

The students walk into an auditorium.

INT. MEDICAL SCHOOL CLASS AUDITORIUM - GUADALAJARA - DAY

Jaime sits far back in the auditorium. A lecture in cardiology is presented.

There is a screen. The PROFESSOR points at the human heart and explains the circulatory system. He speaks in Spanish.

INSERT

A LARGE CALENDAR on the blackboard shows OCTUBRE, 1976.

PROFESSOR (V.O)
El circulacion de la corazon...

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - LE TRIGNON - GUADALAJARA - EVENING

TITLE CARD: TWO DAYS LATER

It is early Friday evening. Jaime has dinner in an upscale French restaurant, Le Trignon, located a few blocks from his apartment on Avenida Vallarta. The restaurant is not crowded. There are Three Waiters serving Customers.

The MUSIC playing is something like Charles Aznavour.

Jaime sits alone. There is a full glass of red wine on the table. He holds a box of matches in his hand.

INSERT

LE TRIGNON is written on the box of matches.

VARIOUS ANGLES

Sergio enters the restaurant with a YOUNG BLOND WOMAN. She is in her mid twenties and very beautiful. Both Sergio and the Blond Woman are well dressed. Sergio carries a briefcase. A WAITER escorts them to a table on the opposite side of the room from Jaime. The Blond Woman sits at the table.

Sergio, with briefcase in hand, walks over to Jaime's table. Jaime stands up and they shake hands. Sergio places the briefcase on the floor. They sit down.

SERGIO

Jaime, when I called you last night to meet me here, I had just heard from Tom.

JAIME

Good.

SERGIO

In the summer, when I saw Tom in Puerto Vallarta, he had this blond kid named Rob fly down. They paid me five grand for the bricks.

JAIME

Tom said the bricks cost twenty.

SERGIO

Tom wired the rest of the money yesterday to my bank in Mexico City.

Jaime and Sergio both light cigarettes.

SERGIO (CONT'D)

There is a problem with Tom and this kid Rob.

JAIME

What's the problem?

SERGIO

They are informants for a rival drug network.

Sergio blows smoke. Jaime crushes his cigarette in the ashtray.

SERGIO (CONT'D)

Tom wants you to take the bricks across the border and deliver the cocaine to him. He doesn't trust my Mexican men.

JAIME

I really don't want any part of this. I don't like this drug business.

Sergio looks directly at Jaime.

SERGIO

Jaime, you have to do this.

Jaime's eyes open wider. He knows what Sergio is talking about. Sergio rubs his cigarette butt into the ashtray.

JAIME (SIGHS)

Where do I cross the border?

SERGIO

Laredo is the best place, lots of traffic and your safety is guaranteed. I have a number for you to call that gringo fuck Rob.

He pushes the briefcase under the table floor over toward Jaime.

SERGIO (CONT'D)

The telephone number is in the briefcase with traveling money.

JAIME

How much traveling money?

SERGIO

Fifteen thousand dollars.
(Pause)
This should not be too difficult for you. Tom and Rob think you are a first class jerkoff.

JAIME

I know.

SERGIO

Do you need anything else?

JAIME

No, I'll take care of things myself.

(MORE)

JAIME (CONT'D)

(Pause)

Sergio, this is my last job. I won't be coming back to Mexico.

SERGIO

OK. I told you years ago that you could leave the organization whenever you wanted. I'll keep my word.

JAIME

Bueno.

Sergio turns towards the Young Blonde Woman and smiles. Then he looks at Jaime. He stands up and shakes Jaime's hand.

SERGIO

Bueno suerte mi amigo. Have a safe trip.

Sergio nods his head and returns to the Young Blonde Woman. Jaime sips the glass of wine.

CUT TO:

INT. JAIME'S APARTMENT - GUADALAJARA - NIGHT

It is Saturday evening. Jaime sits at his desk. He writes some notes. He stops writing, takes a swig of Coca Cola and looks at his DESK CLOCK. There is a large CALENDAR on the wall.

INSERT

Days are marked off the CALENDAR up to SABADO, 9 DE OCTUBRE 1976. The DESK CLOCK shows 10:00 PM.

EXT. STREET - GUADALAJARA - NIGHT

Jaime enters his car a red and white Chevy Malibu.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Jaime turns on the radio. Disco Music plays.

EXT. STREET - GUADALAJARA - NIGHT

Traffic is light.

MOVING

The Chevy drives down Avenida Vallarta, which turns into Avenida Juarez. The car goes through the center of the city. Then it continues onto Avenida Javier Mina to the RED LIGHT DISTRICT.

EXT. STREET - RED LIGHT DISTRICT - NIGHT

Jaime parks his car and walks a block. He knocks at a house door with a red light hanging from above. A small window opens. A MAN peers through the window. He unlocks the door and Jaime walks into the whorehouse.

INT. WHOREHOUSE - NIGHT

Jaime gives the Man a twenty-peso bill. Jaime walks up one flight of stairs and enters the main room. There are WAITERS, BOUNCERS, GIRLS and CUSTOMERS standing and sitting. A radio plays MUSIC in English. Olivia Newton John sings, "Come on over, put a smile on my face."

The house is busy. There are no medical students in the place. There are only Mexican men, young and old. Jaime is the only American in the room. There is a large bar. One of the Waiters comes up to Jaime.

The dialogue is in Spanish with translation.

HOUSE WAITER

Que paso? (What's happening?)

JAIME

ESTER esta aqui? (Is Ester here?)

HOUSE WAITER

Si. (Yes.)

The House Waiter calls a GIRL over. The Girl leaves the room.

HOUSE WAITER (CONT'D)

Una toma? (Do you want a drink?)

JAIME

Una cerveza. (A beer.)

The House Waiter brings Jaime a SUPERIOR beer. Jaime pays ten pesos and gives him ten pesos tip.

ANOTHER ANGLE

ESTER walks behind Jaime and taps him on his back. She is about twenty-six years old. Five-feet-two inches tall, dark hair, dark eyes, very pretty, well built. Ester understands and speaks some English with a heavy Mexican accent.

JAIME (CONT'D)

Por toda la noche, Ester. (All night, Ester.)

ESTER

Un mil-pesos. (One thousand pesos.)

Jaime hands her two five hundred peso bills. Note: One thousand pesos is the equivalent of eighty dollars in 1976.

ESTER (CONT'D)

Un momento Jaime. Ya me voy a conseguir mi chaqueta. (One moment Jaime. I am going to get my jacket.)

Jaime waits a second. Ester returns with her jacket. MUSIC, Linda Ronstadt sings in English. "You're no good, you're no good, you're no good, baby you're no good."

EXT. STREET - RED LIGHT DISTRICT - NIGHT

Jaime and Ester are about to enter his car. He opens the door for her.

ESTER

Donde vas Jaime? (Where are you going Jaime?)

JAIME

El motel. (The motel.)

MOVING - CAR POV

They drive through the streets of the red light district.

EXT. MOTEL - RED LIGHT DISTRICT - NIGHT

Jaime pulls the car into the motel driveway. A PARKING ATTENDANT signals him to park the car beneath a motel room.

Jaime parks the car in the garage space below the room. The Parking Attendant closes a curtain so the car cannot be seen.

Jaime and Ester exit the car. The PARKING ATTENDANT hands Jaime a key to the motel room. As Jaime and Ester walk up the stairs to the room, Jaime turns and speaks to the Attendant.

JAIME

Dos cervezas. (Two beers.)

PARKING ATTENDANT

Si, como no. (Yes, of course.)

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

The room has a bed, chair, small dresser table. The window is covered with cloth. There is a radio on the table. Ester turns on the radio. She sets the sound very low. The MUSIC is in Spanish, "*Ya no me cantes cigarra, Que acabe tu sonsonete.*"

SOUND. KNOCK at the door.

Jaime goes to the door and opens it. The Parking Attendant hands Jaime two Superior beers. Jaime turns and places the beer on the dresser table. He pays the Parking Attendant some money. The Parking Attendant closes the door as he exits.

The beers are already opened, Jaime hands Ester a beer and keeps one for himself.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Ester kicks off her shoes and sits on the bed. She sips the beer. She lights a BARONET cigarette and gives it to Jaime. She lights another cigarette for herself. They smoke and drink for a moment.

ESTER

Perdias peso, Jaime? (Have you lost weight, Jaime?)

JAIME

Si, un poco. Come estas Ester?
(Yes, a little. How are you Ester?)

ESTER

Mas o menos bien. Porque no me llama Jaime? (More or less well. Why haven't you called me Jaime?)

JAIME

Tengo estudios muchos. (I had a lot to study.)

(MORE)

JAIME (CONT'D)

(Pause)

*Ester, te conocí mas que tres años
verdad?* (Ester, you have known me
for more than three years, right?)

ESTER

Si, casi cuatro años. (Yes, almost
four years.)

JAIME

*Necesito salir Mexico y esta vez,
yo no puedo regresar.*

(Pause-He speaks in English)

I am leaving Mexico, Ester and I am
not coming back to Guadalajara.
Ever.

ESTER

Tu regresas siempre.

(Pause-She speaks in English)

You always come back.

JAIME

Esta vez, no.

(Pause)

This time no.

Ester looks at Jaime and touches him. They go to bed.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - GUADALAJARA - DAY

TITLE CARD: TUESDAY OCTOBER 12, 1976

Jaime stands in front of Servicio Jose Vallarta which is
located across the street from his apartment building. His
red and white Chevy Malibu is shown being serviced in one of
the bays.

There is a large SIGN: SERVICIO JOSE VALLARTA.

Jaime walks one block down Avenida Vallarta to a taxicab
stand. He wears a khaki army backpack.

INT. TAXI - DAY

JAIME

Tlaquepaque por favor.

TAXI DRIVER

OK.

EXT. STREET - GUADALAJARA - DAY

MOVING

The taxi drives up Avenida Vallarta, around Minerva Circle to Avenida Las Americas, to the highway Mariano Otero, to Avenida Lazaro Cardenas into the town of Tlaquepaque. There is plenty of traffic.

EXT. STREET - TLAQUEPAQUE, MEXICO - DAY

The town of Tlaquepaque caters to tourists and Mexicans. There are many small shops that make goods to order. There are leather goods stores, jewelry shops, silversmiths, and arts and crafts shops.

Jaime walks a few blocks then enters a store.

INT. COPPER PLATES STORE - TLAQUEPAQUE, MEXICO - DAY

This store sells brass and copper plates, pots and pans. Goods are displayed in the windows and throughout the shop.

There are a couple of AMERICAN WOMEN TOURISTS buying copper kettles from a SALES-GIRL.

A MEXICAN CRAFTSMAN, mid thirties, large and dark, greets Jaime as he enters the shop. They walk into a back room.

INT. BACK ROOM COPPER PLATES STORE - DAY

Jaime removes a revolver and silencer from inside the backpack and hands it to the craftsman.

JAIME

Test the gun and silencer for me.
Adjust the silencer if the sound is
too loud.

CRAFTSMAN

(Heavy Mexican Accent)
Come back in two hours Jaime.

Jaime shakes the Craftsman's hand and leaves the shop.

EXT. STREET - TLAQUEPAQUE, MEXICO - DAY

Jaime walks the streets of Tlaquepaque. He peers into the different shop windows.

He enters a Sweater Store.

INT. SWEATER STORE - TLAQUEPAQUE, MEXICO - MOMENTS LATER

Jaime purchases three different colored sweaters.

At the cash register, The FEMALE SALESPERSON places the sweaters in a shopping bag.

Jaime pays cash. She gives him the shopping bag. Jaime exits the sweater shop.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTDOOR RESTAURANT - TLAQUEPAQUE, MEXICO - SAME DAY

Jaime eats tacos and drinks a CORONA beer. His backpack and a shopping bag lay at his feet.

He watches the PRETTY MEXICAN GIRLS walk by. They have blue-green eyes and dark hair.

Note: The town of Tlaquepaque was a French outpost when Maximilian was Emperor of Mexico. Thus the inhabitants have blue-green eyes.

Jaime checks his watch.

EXT. COPPER PLATES STORE - DAY

Jaime wears his backpack and carries the shopping bag. He enters the copper crafts shop to retrieve the gun and silencer.

ANOTHER ANGLE - MOMENTS LATER

Jaime exits the shop with the Craftsman. They shake hands. The Craftsman waves goodbye as Jaime enters a taxi.

CUT TO:

INT. JAIME'S BEDROOM - GUADALAJARA - THAT EVENING

MUSIC by SANTANA plays in the background.

Sergio's briefcase is on the bed. Jaime opens the briefcase. He takes the paper with Rob's phone number and studies it for a second. Then he rips the paper and drops it into a waste basket.

Jaime removes money from the briefcase. He places five stacks of bills wrapped in rubber bands on the bed. He quickly flips through thirty, one hundred dollar bills. He does this five times. There are five short stacks of money. He throws the money into an open suitcase. He goes into a closet and retrieves one of the large sweaters he recently purchased in Tlaquepaque. He covers the money with the sweater and shuts the suitcase.

INT. JAIME'S KITCHEN - GUADALAJARA - THAT EVENING

Background MUSIC is Disco.

The two bricks of cocaine are on the table. Jaime takes a brick and chops it with a hammer and screwdriver. He gets a blast of cocaine powder directly in his face. He breathes the coke in and is stunned for a second.

Jaime grabs a towel and wipes his mouth and nose. He opens a suitcase and pulls out a green surgical mask. He ties the mask over his mouth and nose.

Jaime proceeds to chop the bricks of cocaine. He makes twelve individual piles. He wraps the first pile in cellophane. He gets a white gym sock and pads the sock with a small sponge and cotton. He places the cellophane bag of cocaine into the sock and rolls it up. He repeats the procedure.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - GUADALAJARA - DAWN

TITLE CARD: THE NEXT MORNING - WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 13, 1976

Jaime closes the trunk of his Chevy Malibu.

INT. CAR - DAWN

Jaime pops two pills into his mouth and washes them down with a Coke. He places the pill bottle on the passenger seat.

INSERT

The LABEL on the pill bottle reads LOMOTIL.

NOTE: LOMOTIL is a mild opiate derivative that prevents diarrhea.

EXT. HIGHWAY - GUADALAJARA - DAWN

MOVING

The Chevy drives east into the mountains. The lights of Guadalajara are seen on the Western plateau.

EXT. HIGHWAY - TABASCO, MEXICO - MORNING

MOVING

Driving around the mountains, the car slowly passes a SIGN marking the town of TABASCO. Tabasco is a small, dreary town. There are PEASANTS on the side of the road, waiting at a bus stop. These men look like movie extras in films about Emiliano Zapata. Jaime pulls the car into a Pemex gas station at the far end of town.

EXT. HIGHWAY - ZACATECAS, MEXICO - DAY

MOVING

The car continues the trip and finally comes out of the mountains into a town. A SIGN shows the town ZACATECAS.

The sun shines.

INT. CAR - DAY

Jaime now drives the car wearing sunglasses.

The car passes a SIGN on the road, 54 NORTE. The drive continues through the flat desert. There is sparse traffic.

Country Western Music plays on the radio.

EXT. HIGHWAY - SALTILLO, MEXICO - DAY

MOVING

The car enters the city of SALTILLO. The traffic is heavy and driving is slow. There is steady highway traffic all the way into the larger city of MONTERREY.

EXT. PEMEX STATION - MONTERREY, MEXICO - DAY

Jaime pulls the Chevy Malibu into the gas station at the north end of Monterrey. A GAS STATION ATTENDANT fills the tank.

Jaime gets out, stretches and yawns. He takes off the sunglasses and rubs his eyes. He grabs a small bottle of Coke from a case of Coca Cola. He takes a bottle opener from the case and opens the Coke. He sips the soda and checks his wristwatch.

INSERT

The WRISTWATCH TIME shows 2:15 o'clock.

EXT. FEDERALE PERIMETER CHECKPOINT - MEXICO - TEN KILOMETERS FROM THE UNITED STATES BORDER - DAY

The car is stopped at a Federale checkpoint. Jaime gets out of the car.

Jaime hands the FEDERALE a Mexican student visa, an American passport and his car documents. The big, fat bastard Federale authoritatively looks at Jaime's documents and ambles to the front of the Chevy Malibu. He checks the date on the Mexican car permit sticker at the driver side front window. Everything is in order.

The Federale peers inside the car and speaks to Jaime in Spanish.

FEDERALE
Andale pues.

Jaime gets going.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NUEVO LAREDO, MEXICO - DAY

MOVING

The Chevy Malibu travels through the busy border town of NUEVO LAREDO and crosses the bridge into LAREDO, TEXAS.

EXT. USA CUSTOMS STATION - LAREDO, TEXAS - DAY

The car idles in a line at the US frontier entry point. There are many cars and vans entering the USA at Laredo, Texas. In the adjacent car line, three CUSTOMS AGENTS are thoroughly checking a Ford van. A different CUSTOMS AGENT approaches Jaime's car.

CUSTOMS AGENT
(Heavy West Texas drawl)
Get out of the car.

Jaime gets out.

CUSTOMS AGENT (CONT'D)
Driver's license and registration.

Jaime hands the Customs Agent his license, Texas car registration, American passport and Mexican Student Visa.

The Customs Agent checks these documents.

Jaime opens the driver side door. He reaches into the car and grabs a Coke from the bag on the passenger side floor. He opens the bottle with an opener. He takes a sip of cola. Jaime relieves tension by sipping Coca Cola.

CUSTOMS AGENT (CONT'D)
Open your trunk. Do you have
anything to declare: fruits,
vegetables, alcohol?

Jaime opens the trunk.

JAIME
I have nothing to declare.

The Customs Agent does a half-ass job checking the baggage in the car trunk. He does not open any luggage.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Customs Agent turns and looks at Jaime.

CUSTOMS AGENT
When was the last time you were in
Texas?

JAIME
About six months ago.

CUSTOMS AGENT
Are you carrying contraband?

JAIME

No contraband, just this Coke.

Jaime holds up the bottle of Coca Cola that he has been drinking.

CUSTOMS AGENT

(Speaking Slowly)

Get the fuck out of here ass-hole.

Jaime quickly gets back into the car. He turns his head and looks at the large clock in the Customs Station Office.

INSERT

The CLOCK shows 5:45 o'clock.

EXT. ROAD - LAREDO, TEXAS - EVENING

The Chevy drives north. The sun sets in the West.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - GRAND HOTEL LAREDO, TEXAS - EVENING

The extreme tension of the day has gotten to Jaime. He vomits into the toilet.

INT. BEDROOM - GRAND HOTEL - A SHORT TIME LATER - NIGHT

Jaime gets into bed and begins a restless sleep. He dreams.

INT. RESTAURANT KITCHEN - BROOKLYN, NY - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: JERRY'S BAR AND GRILL BROOKLYN, NY - 1966

Jaime is seventeen years old. He sits on a kitchen chair. He wears an apron. The kitchen is clean, the dishes and glasses are properly in place. Jaime drinks a glass of milk. Everything is quiet and peaceful.

INT. BARROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The barroom is empty. A middle aged man wearing an apron wipes off the bar. He is Jaime's UNCLE JERRY. Uncle Jerry has snow white hair and is average height and weight.

The CLOCK on the wall shows 3:00 o'clock. It is 3 AM, closing time.

TWO LARGE MEN in casual dress quietly enter the barroom. Uncle Jerry turns and recognizes the men.

UNCLE JERRY
(Brooklyn Accent, Speaking Friendly)
Hey guys, what's up.

VARIOUS ANGLES

The Two Men draw revolvers and shoot at Uncle Jerry. Uncle Jerry quickly dives under the bar. He is not fast enough and one of the bullets hits him in the shoulder. He groans.

As the Two Men move around the side of the bar to kill Uncle Jerry, Jaime enters the barroom from the kitchen.

Jaime aims a double barrel twelve gauge, pump action shotgun at the Two Men. He unloads both barrels. There are two loud BLASTS. Jaime motionless, stares at the dead men. He has blown off parts of their faces.

Uncle Jerry comes from around the bar. There is blood dripping from his right shoulder. With his good left arm, he grabs the shotgun from Jaime.

UNCLE JERRY (CONT'D)
Get out. Don't ever say a word
about this to anyone. I will take
care of everything.
(Pause)
Thanks Jimmy.

INT. BEDROOM - GRAND HOTEL LAREDO, TEXAS - DAWN

As Jaime wakes up he moans, jumps out of bed and goes into the bathroom.

SOUNDS of a shower running water are heard off camera.

Jaime re-enters the bedroom. He is very slim. He has lost fifteen pounds since July. He dries his face and torso with an extra large towel. He looks at the towel.

INSERT

Written on the towel: GRAND HOTEL LAREDO, TEXAS.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY ROUTE 35 NORTH - AUSTIN, TEXAS - DAY

TITLE CARD: AUSTIN, TEXAS - THURSDAY OCTOBER 14, 1976

MOVING

The Chevy Malibu drives up ROUTE 35 into AUSTIN, TEXAS.

EXT. MCDONALD'S RESTAURANT - AUSTIN, TEXAS - DAY

The car pulls into McDonald's.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Jaime walks from the car parking lot toward the entrance of McDonald's.

GUYS with cowboy hats, sitting in trucks with shotgun racks are eating hamburgers and drinking beer. A COUNTRY MUSIC station plays Roy Orbison, "I feel so bad I've got a worried mind, I'm so lonesome all the time."

Three very pretty TEENAGED GIRLS in jeans and boots are walking into McDonald's. They are happy, having a gleeful conversation. One of the girls, a good-looking BLOND about five feet eight inches tall, has a pair of well-endowed breasts. She smiles at Jaime.

Jaime silently smiles back at her. He walks over to a phone booth.

INT. PHONE BOOTH - AUSTIN, TEXAS - DAY

Jaime dials. SOUNDS of COINS are heard.

SOUND of RINGING.

ROB (V.O.)
(Midwestern Accent)
Rob here.

JAIME
Rob this is Jaime. How are things
in Cincinnati?

ROB (V.O.)
The Reds are in the World Series
against the Yankees.

JAIME

That's great. Where's Tom?

ROB (V.O.)

Tom is in Chicago. Can we all meet there?

JAIME

No. I am not driving to Chicago.
(Pause)
Today is Thursday. I'm in Austin, Texas. I'll make Little Rock by Saturday. I'll meet you and Tom, at the Ramada Inn on Highway 30 West at 2:00 PM. Make the reservation in your name, so I can call you at the motel.

ROB (V.O.)

OK, that's Saturday, October 16, 2:00 PM, Ramada Inn, Highway 30 West, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Jaime hangs up the phone.

CUT TO:

EXT. WAFFLE HOUSE - LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS - DAY

TITLE CARD: LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1976

Jaime stands next to his car in the WAFFLE HOUSE parking lot. He has the backpack on and holds a canvas gym bag in his left hand.

He walks to a phone booth on the side of the restaurant. He makes a call.

INT. PHONE BOOTH - LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS - DAY

SOUND of RINGING.

HOTEL OPERATOR (V.O)

Ramada Inn.

JAIME

Hello, can you please connect me to Mr. Rob Loesser.

HOTEL OPERATOR (V.O.)
Yes, I'll ring him.

Phone RINGS once.

ROB (V.O.)
Hello.

JAIME
What's your room number?

ROB (V.O.)
Two fourteen.

Jaime hangs up the phone.

EXT. STREET - LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS - DAY

Jaime walks two long blocks to the Ramada Inn.

EXT. RAMADA INN - LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS - DAY

The motel building and SIGN, RAMADA INN are seen from the highway. Jaime walks through the parking lot of the Ramada Inn wearing his backpack and carrying the gym bag.

He enters the Ramada Inn from a side entrance. It is obvious that he is familiar with the hotel layout.

INT. RAMADA INN - DAY

Jaime goes up one flight of stairs, walks down the hallway and stops at Room 214.

DOORWAY

Jaime knocks at the door. Rob opens the door and lets Jaime in.

INT. HOTEL ROOM, RAMADA INN - DAY

Tom sits on one of the twin beds. He sees Jaime and smiles.

Rob stands by Tom.

The television set is on. There is a campaign commercial that explains what a great guy Jimmy Carter is.

JAIME
Who's that guy?

TOM
That jackoff is Jimmy Carter and
he's running for President against
that other jackoff Gerald Ford.

Tom walks over and turns the television off.

Jaime is tense but conceals it.

Tom and Rob are perfectly comfortable with Jaime. They think
Jaime is an ass-hole.

JAIME
Here's the stuff.

Jaime places the canvas bag on a bed.

TOM
Have any problem at Customs.

JAIME
No. The Customs Agent barely
checked the car.

Jaime opens the canvas bag. He removes a large sweater and
places it on the bed. Next he pulls out a sock and puts it on
the bed. He rapidly pulls out the remaining eleven socks
placing each one on a twin bed.

Jaime replaces the sweater into the bag and zips it shut.
He has his backpack on.

JAIME (CONT'D)
I had to chop the coke up and wrap
it in cellophane, cotton and
sponge. Then I placed the stuff
inside these socks. It's all here.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Tom begins to check a sock. He puts his finger in and tastes
the coke. He smiles at Rob.

Rob goes over to the closet and pulls out two stacks of one
hundred dollar bills. He hands the bills to Jaime.

ROB
That's two grand.

Jaime does not show much emotion. He takes the money and places it in the gym bag.

Rob walks to the radio located between the two twin beds and turns it on. The station plays MUSIC by Jim Croce.

TOM

We are going to cut this stuff, and make it into four kilos. I have a guy in Chicago that will pay thirty grand a key.

Rob goes into the closet. He brings back a small scale and a jar that contains a white substance that looks like powdered milk. Tom places a sock on a table.

Tom and Rob put on green surgical masks.

ROB

Let's get to work and cut this shit.

Tom puts a sock full of coke on one scale. Rob pours powdered milk onto the opposite side scale until the weights are equal. Tom empties the sock of cocaine into a mixing bowl. Rob pushes the milk powder into the bowl and mixes.

Jaime stands a short distance from them.

JAIME

I need to use the bathroom before I leave.

TOM

Sure, go ahead.

Jaime takes the gym bag and goes into the bathroom with his backpack on.

INT. BATHROOM - RAMADA INN - DAY

Jaime places the canvas gym bag on the floor. He takes off the backpack. He removes a different sweater from the backpack. He pulls a 38 caliber Smith and Wesson revolver and silencer from inside the sweater. He removes a baseball cap from the backpack and puts it on his head.

CLOSER

He screws the silencer onto the revolver. He aims the pistol at his reflection in the bathroom mirror.

In the background the radio station plays Rock and Roll MUSIC.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - RAMADA INN - DAY

BATHROOM DOORWAY

Jaime stands in front of the open bathroom doorway. He aims the revolver.

Tom and Rob are busy cutting cocaine. Their backs are shown.

VARIOUS ANGLES

Jaime quickly shoots Rob and Tom in the back of their heads. The silencer works but there are large THUD SOUNDS when Rob and Tom go down.

JAIME walks over. He shoots Rob in the heart. Then he shoots Tom in the heart.

Blood, brains and cocaine are spread across the room.

Jaime inspects his outer jacket for blood. He puts the gun on the bed and removes the jacket. He takes the sweater from the canvas bag and puts it on. He throws the soiled jacket into the canvas bag.

Jaime disengages the silencer from the revolver and places them in the canvas bag. He removes his backpack and puts it into the canvas bag. Jaime zips the bag shut.

MUSIC continues to play on the radio, Chuck Berry sings "Her home is on the south side high up on a ridge."

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGE - MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: MISSISSIPPI RIVER, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE - SATURDAY NIGHT

The Chevy Malibu is parked alongside the Mississippi River. The bridge is shown a few hundred yards to the north. A HOLIDAY INN is seen in the East.

VARIOUS ANGLES

Jaime gets out of the car. He walks to the riverbank. He carries the canvas bag. He removes the gun and silencer from the bag and flings them into the river.

He walks down river twenty yards, removes the soiled jacket and throws it into the river.

Jaime walks a few more yards, removes the backpack from the bag and throws that into the water. Finally the canvas bag gets launched into the muddy Mississippi river.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE - NIGHT

Jaime turns the radio on.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O)
Tomorrow The New York Yankees play
the Cincinnati Reds in the World
Series.

Jaime presses buttons on the radio and changes channels.

MUSIC by The Eagles. "Don't let the sound of your own wheels,
drive you crazy."

Jaime has a smirk on his face.

EXT. HIGHWAY 40 EAST - MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE - NIGHT

MOVING

The Chevy travels down HIGHWAY 40 EAST out of MEMPHIS.

DISSOLVE TO THE
END.