

REVERSE: Chris, moving to the mysterious object. As he lifts it, we see that it is a goofy looking straw hat. He dusts it off, and snugs it onto his head, when a police car comes into frame and stops beside Chris.

With a quick blast of the siren, Chris turns to regard the police car. The POLICEMAN gets out of the car and moves to Chris.

POLICEMAN

How're you doin' this evening?

CHRIS

(reluctantly)

I'm alright. What's the matter?

POLICEMAN

You wanna put your backpack down on the hood of my car.

Chris does not oblige.

CHRIS

Why?

POLICEMAN

Because I asked you to, sir.

CHRIS

But I haven't done anything wrong. These are my personal items.

POLICEMAN

Do you know that it's unlawful to hitchhike on this stretch of highway.

CHRIS

You're kidding.

POLICEMAN

Do you see a safe area for a vehicle to stop? We got a tree-lined highway without a substantial shoulder here. And we've had a lot of accidents on this road from people stopping in the traffic lane for hitchhikers.

CHRIS

Alright, but...I mean, you stopped your car. You're in the traffic lane. And you can see, there's hardly any cars out here. Plus, it's a straight road; you can see for a long ways.

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CHRIS (CONT'D)
 (in disbelief)
 There's really been accidents along here?

POLICEMAN
 May I see some identification?

Now Chris is worried.

CHRIS
 I don't have any.

POLICEMAN
 You don't have any identification?

Chris shakes his head "No."

POLICEMAN (CONT'D)
 (pulling out a ticket)
 Well, I'm gonna site you for unlawful
 hitchhiking. You don't have to appear.
 You can send a check directly to the
 Humboldt County Clerks Office for
 restitution. If you don't pay it within
 30 days, you're subject to fine and
 warrant. I'm gonna trust that you're
 gonna give me accurate information.
 What's your name?

Chris can't bring himself to lie.

CHRIS
 (a beat)
 McCandless. Christopher Johnson
 McCandless.

CUT TO:

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INT. MCCANDLESS HOME, ANNANDALE (MID-AUGUST 1990)

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Walt, Billie, and Carine sit around the kitchen table in August. A copy of Chris' ticket has been sent to the Annandale address and sits before them. Billie and Carine sit silently. Walt's on the phone.

CARINE (V.O.)
 If Chris were trying to disappear, it
 would have been a pretty uncharacteristic
 lapse for him to give the police his real
 place of residence. Though my parents
 had already contacted the Annandale
 police with their initial concerns, this
 ticket arriving from California made them
 frantic.

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