PRODUCER: George Eckstein

TVM
MOVIE OF THE WEEKEND

DUEL

(1971)

Teleplay

by

Richard Matheson

Based on the

story

by

Richard Matheson
FADE IN

1. EXT. OPEN COUNTRY - HELICOPTER SHOT - DAY

Behind titles, we see Mann's car (a low-power, economy model) being driven along a two-lane, rural highway. No music; only the faint sounds of his car motor and those of two widely separated vehicles he passes which are going in the opposite direction. Titles end.

2. MOVING SHOT - MANN'S CAR

Camera drawing straight ahead of the car as it is driven along the curving back country highway. Camera starts to slow down after several moments and the car moves closer until we see Mann more clearly.

3. INT. CAR - ANGLE ON MANN

His suit coat off, his tie removed and shirt collar opened, his sleeve cuffs folded back twice, a harness strap diagonal across his chest. There is sunlight on his left arm and on part of his lap. His hair is ruffled by the wind from the open window at his left. He is humming softly with the music on the car radio, the fingers of his right hand tapping idly on the steering wheel. Camera draws around him slowly, revealing a curving grade ahead between two high hills. Just visible, climbing the grade, is a truck pulling a tank trailer. Camera moves down to the speedometer, Mann is holding his speed at a steady 55 miles per hour. After several moments, camera pans to the dashboard clock and holds. It is 11:31.

4. HELICOPTER SHOT - MANN'S CAR

Camera shooting from the left and at a shallow downward angle. Now the camera starts to pull ahead, drawing around so that Mann's car remains in sight. After a while, the truck is revealed foot by foot; a gigantic gasoline tanker truck pulling a tank trailer, each of them having six wheels. It is not a new rig but dented and in need of renovation, its tanks painted a cheap looking silver color. We hear the grinding strain of the truck's motor. The vertical pipe to the left of the cab is spewing dark smoke which clouds back across the trailer. Mann's car starts to close in on the truck and trailer.
INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN

The truck trailer ahead, the distance between it and the car narrowing. The word flammable is printed across the back of the trailer, red letters on a white background. There are parallel reflector lines across the bottom half of the tank which look as though they have been clumsily applied with a stencil. Swaying behind the rear tires are massive, black rubber flaps. The license plate is a California issue.

Mann starts to edge his car toward the opposite lane. He steers back behind the truck with a faint sound of aggravation as he sees a blind curve ahead. Some of the dark exhaust clouds across his car and he gets a whiff of it through the open window, makes another sound, this one of distaste. After several moments, he edges out into the opposite lane again. The ridge ahead makes it too risky to pass. Mann makes another sound, this of semi-amused acceptance as he pulls behind the truck again.

HELIicopter SHOT - TRUCK AND CAR

The truck reaches the summit of the ridge and moves across it. After a brief period, it starts around a left curve on the downgrade. Camera draws around to reveal that no cars are approaching from the other direction. Immediately, Mann's car is accelerated and steered into the opposite lane, gradually passing the truck.

INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN

Toward the back of his car. Through the rear window, we see the truck, its front fenders a dingy purple color, the paint faded and chipped. Mann glances at the rear view mirror, then steers back into the proper lane, slowly increasing the distance between his car and the truck. He starts to hum again, relaxing. Camera moves past him, stops, then angles down to reveal his samples on the back seat.

ANGLE ON MANN

We do not see the highway behind him. He starts to whistle softly with the radio music, looking at the countryside ahead.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - COUNTRYSIDE

Distant ranges of mountains as far as the eye can see and, in the immediate area, a valley ahead. o.s.

CONTINUED
We hear Mann's soft whistling. At the bottom of the grade, the car crosses a concrete bridge and we hear the dull, popping sounds of the bridge rails being passed. Camera down pans to the speedometer. Mann has been driving down the last straight portion of the grade at 67 miles per hour. We see the needle move back as he slows to 55 and holds.

ANGLE PAST MANN

Camera shooting toward the right rear of the car so the highway behind is not visible. Camera moves in on Mann's face as he whistles. He looks toward the dashboard.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - PHOTOGRAPH HOLDER

Attached by a suction cup to the flat above the dashboard. Camera moves in on the photograph of Mann's wife, seventeen-year-old daughter and fourteen-year-old son.

BACK TO MANN

Same angle as shot #10. He smiles to himself as he whistles. He looks back at the highway, his eyes going out of focus. A few moments later, the roar of the truck motor makes his eyes snap back into focus and he looks to his left.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK

Passing in the next lane, camera draws back and around so that Mann is included in frame and we see the truck and trailer gaining ground, the passing of its bulk causing Mann's car to shudder slightly. The truck has barely gotten by when its driver cuts in for the proper lane. Mann makes a startled sound as he is forced to brake to keep from getting too close to the rear of the tank trailer.

MANN

Hey, what's with you?

CLOSE ON MANN

Looking at the truck and trailer with disapproval.

MANN

Knights o' the highway, anh?
POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER

About thirty yards ahead. Its black exhaust clouds across the windshield.

CLOSE ON MANN

Grimacing at the smell of the exhaust.

MANN

Oh, come on.

He glares at the truck.

MANN'S THOUGHT

Talk about air pollution...

He makes a hissing sound, then a pained one as another whiff of truck exhaust assails him. He lets up on the accelerator and slows down, looking at the truck, teeth gritted slightly. Now he looks at the dashboard clock, winces.

INSERT - DASHBOARD CLOCK

11:37

MANN'S VOICE

(sing-song)

I've gotta get going.

MOVING SHOT - CAR

Camera on the left front fender, shooting toward Mann as he edges out slowly into the next lane, looking ahead for signs of approaching traffic.

INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN

Toward the highway ahead, the truck and trailer visible on the right. There is no oncoming traffic. Mann pushes down on the accelerator and his car starts to pass the trailer. Camera draws around to the left so that, as he begins to pass the truck, we see its cab. It is too high for us to see more than the truck driver's left hand on the steering wheel -- darkly tanned and square-looking with large veins knotted on its surface.
20 MOVING SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER AND CAR

Camera ahead on the highway, far enough in advance so that we cannot see the truck driver's face or Mann's. The car pulls ahead of the truck.

21 INT. CAR - CLOSE ON REAR VIEW MIRROR

The truck's reflection gradually appearing in it. Camera withdraws to include Mann as he pulls back into the proper lane. He starts and looks up quickly at the mirror as the truck driver gives him an extended horn blast.

22 ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD REAR OF CAR

The truck behind him in the distance. Mann looks down from the rear view mirror.

MANN
(drily)
'What was that, a greeting or a curse?'

23 HELICOPTOR SHOT - CAR AND TRUCK

Camera moving ahead of the car and the truck and trailer.

24 INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN

Toward the right front of the car. Off the highway is a slope of shale-like earth with patches of scrub grass growing on it. On top of the slope is a clapboard house with a television aerial on its roof which sags at an angle of less than 40 degrees. Mann makes an amused sound. A sign appears ahead, printed in jagged black letters on a piece of plywood leaning against a boulder: Night crawlers - bait. Mann makes another sound of amusement.

MANN'S THOUGHT
'Night crawler?'

MANN
Sounds like some monster in a low grade horror movie.

Up ahead, a gas station appears.

25 CLOSE ON MANN

Glancing at the fuel gauge.
26  INSERT - FUEL GAUGE

Below the 1/4 mark.

27  ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD THE GAS STATION

Slowing down, Mann turns in and brakes to the left of the
pump island nearest the highway. Cutting off the motor, he
rub his eyes and yawns, begins to stretch. The sound of the
truck motor behind his car makes him twist around.

28  POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK

Seen through the rear window, looming hugely, only the lower
portion of it visible as it is steered toward the right of the
island. Camera draws back and to Mann's left, turning with
him as he watches the truck stop beside the island with a
squeal of brakes, the trailer hitch paralleled to his front
doors. Camera keeps turning with Mann's head until it is
shooting past him toward the cab of the truck. We see the
hand of the driver on the steering wheel.

29  ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD RIGHT REAR OF CAR

Mann looking toward the truck cab with a slight curiosity.
He starts, looking upward, as the o.s. attendant bangs once
on the roof.

ATTENDANT'S VOICE

Yessir!

Mann jerks his head around at the sound of the man's voice,
camera drawing around to the left to include the skinny, cheery
looking Attendant leaning over by the window, smiling in at
him.

ATTENDANT

What can I do you for?

Mann draws in slightly ragged breath.

MANN

Fill it with Ethyl, please.

ATTENDANT

Will do - if Ethel don't mind.

He moves toward the rear of the car, whistling happily. Mann
smiles a little painfully, then looks toward the cab of the
truck again.
30  POINT OF VIEW SHOT - CAB

The hand is gone.

31  ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD LEFT REAR OF CAR

The attendant removing the cap of the rear gas tank, straight-en ing up and turning toward the pump. Mann looks to his right.

32  POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRAILER

Beneath it the legs of the driver can be seen. He is wearing faded pants and nondescript shoes. Camera pans as he moves to the middle set of tires. Camera draws back to include Mann. He looks toward the window as the o.s. attendant speaks.

ATTENDANT'S VOICE

Check under the hood for ya?

MANN

Please.

He looks to the front. In the b.g., the truck driver's legs move out of sight.

33  ANGLE ON CAR

Mann sitting in profile, staring ahead, not really anxious but not comfortable either. Camera starts to draw back. After several moments, we see the attendant by the open hood. He looks at Mann.

ATTENDANT

Looks like you could use a new radiator hose.

MANN'S THOUGHT

(drily)
Where have I heard that one before?

MANN

(smiling)
I'll get one later.

ATTENDANT

You're the boss.

Camera keeps withdrawing until we see in full shot how the truck and trailer dwarf Mann's car. In relative size, it is akin to seeing a tug boat beside an ocean liner.
34 INT. CAR - ANGLE THROUGH WINDOW ON CLIPBOARD - MINUTES LATER

As the attendant tears off Mann's receipt and hands it to him with his credit card, camera drawing back to reveal Mann as he takes them.

ATTENDANT
You save them stamps?

MANN
No, thank you.

He turns on the motor.

ATTENDANT
Good enough.

Mann lets off the emergency brake and starts to drive away from the station.

ATTENDANT
Come back now!

As Mann steers back onto the highway - looking across his shoulder to make sure it's clear - we see the truck through the rear window, parked by the gas pump island. Mann picks up speed.

WIFE'S VOICE
(sadly chiding)
Why do you always turn down stamps,
Dave?

MANN'S THOUGHT
Cause you always make me lick them. (X)

He grins.

35 ANGLE DOWN HIGHWAY - TOWARD GAS STATION

Mann's car approaches camera and drives past, moving out of frame. Camera holds. Down the highway, the truck and trailer pull away from the gas station, move onto the highway and approach camera. There is a glare of sunlight on the wind-shield and we cannot see the driver's face. The huge truck moves into close f.g., passing camera, filling the screen.

36 INT. CAR - CLOSE ON SPEEDOMETER

The needle steady at 55. Camera draws up and back to include Mann, angling to reveal the highway and terrain ahead. After awhile, the sound of the truck motor begins impinging on the sound of the car motor and Mann glances at the rear view mirror, reacting to what he sees.
The truck overtaking it rapidly. Mann alternates worried glances between the rear view mirror and the highway ahead. He starts to speed up, is disturbed at being forced to do so and begins to slow again. The truck, moving faster and faster, turns out into the opposite lane. Seeing that the truck driver is determined to pass, Mann slows down further. Camera draws around to show the leviathan shape of the truck passing on the left. Mann throws an irritated glance at it.

MANN'S THOUGHT
What are we having, a contest?

Camera keeps moving around Mann, following the movement of the truck. No sooner has it passed than the driver angles toward the proper lane. Mann makes a sound of incredulous surprise as he lets up sharply on the accelerator pedal to keep from being sideswiped.

MANN
What's with this guy?

The truck pulls on ahead, then shows down. Mann has to decrease his speed even more. The odor of the truck's exhaust reaches him again and, with an angry mutter, he starts cranking up the window to his left.

CLOSE ON MANN

As he finishes cranking up the window, looks at the clock.

INSERT - CLOCK

11:59

CLOSE ON MANN

His expression tightening.

MANN'S THOUGHT
I have got to meet Forbes at quarter to three; that's all there is to it.

After a few moments, he sees something ahead and reacts with angry satisfaction.

Ah.

MANN
POI N OF VIEW SHOT - HIGHWAY AHEAD
Widening, a passing lane between the other two.

INT. CAR - MANN
Jarring down his foot on the accelerator pedal and starting to steer to the left.

MOVING SHOT - CAR
Camera drawing ahead of it. As the car reaches the middle lane and starts accelerating further, Camera moves in quickly on the windshield and Mann's expression of disgust.

INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN
Toward the truck ahead. It is edging into the middle lane, blocking his way.

MANN
Oh, for ---

Breaking off, he slows down.

CLOSE ON MANN
Waiting for the truck and trailer to pass whatever vehicle he assumes to be ahead.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER
Remaining in the middle lane.

MANN
Beginning to get the message. He edges his car toward the right to check.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD HIGHWAY AHEAD
His car moving enough to the right for him to see that there is no third vehicle ahead.

MANN
(faintly)
What?
CLOSE ON MANN

looking at the truck and trailer, not wanting to believe the evidence facing him but hard put to do otherwise.

MANN'S THOUGHT
Are you kidding?

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER

in the middle lane, the right lane clear ahead, Mann's car straddles both lanes.

MANN

There is only one way to find out. His lips press together and he steers completely into the right lane, starts accelerating.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK

dging over to block his way.

MANN

slowing down in consternation.

I don't believe it.

He stares at the truck incredulously; drives that way for awhile, then, abruptly, features tightening, flicks down the turn signal lever and, depressing the accelerator pedal, edges toward the middle lane again, sees it's clear and steers completely into it.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK

As his car finishes its shift into the middle lane, the truck and trailer shift to block his way.

EXT. CAR - ANGLE ON WINDSHIELD

Mann's expression contorting.

Oh, yeah?!
INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK

MANN'S THOUGHT
He's got to be kidding!

With a labored exhalation, he steers back quickly into the right hand lane. Ahead, the truck shifts over to block his way.

MANN
You --- !

Breaking off, he exhales hard again. His fingers tap on the steering wheel. Moments pass. Impulsively, he steers into the middle lane again.

MOVING SHOT - TRUCK AND CAR

The truck moving into the middle lane to block the car. Mann steers back into the right lane and the truck does the same.

INT. CAR - CLOSE ON MANN

Face contorted with anger, he slams the heel of his hand three times on the horn bar, then holds it down as he steers into the middle lane again.

MOVING SHOT - TRUCK AND CAR

The truck moving over to block the middle lane. Mann stops honking the horn and steers back toward the right lane, then, as the truck starts edging over, suddenly turns back to the middle lane again, accelerating.

INT. CAR - MANN

His determined expression becoming one of disbelief. He lets up on the accelerator pedal and slows down.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK

straddling the right and middle lanes, blocking them both.

EXT. CAR - ANGLE THROUGH WINDSHIELD

Mann, as he pounds on the horn, resulting in a series of staccato blasts.
INT. CAR - CLOSE ON MANN

MANN
I don't believe it.
(pause)
I just don't believe it.

He blows out shaking breath. Now he sees something ahead which makes him grimace.

MANN
Oh, no.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER

The highway narrowing to two lanes again.

CLOSE ON MANN

fit to be tied.

MANN'S THOUGHT
'Why did I go this way?
(pause; self-mockingly)
I'm tired of the freeway, honey.
Think I'll take the old scenic route this time. No traffic, no pressure....

MANN
You...dope.

He blows out hissing breath. Several moments pass. Then his expression changes as he sees what's happening ahead.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER

The driver has his left arm out the window, waving him on. The road ahead curves blindly to the right.

CLOSE ON MANN

His expression hardening to one of vengeful satisfaction.

MANN
Well, it's about time, Charlie.

He twists the steering wheel, accelerating toward the other lane. Instantly, his face goes blank with shock.
POINT OF VIEW SHOT - OTHER LANE
Camera zooms in on a blue sedan hurtling toward camera.

MANN
gasping as he jerks the steering wheel around.

MOVING SHOT - CAR
returning to the right lane so precipitately that the rear end starts to fishtail. The blue sedan shoots by in the other lane, missing Mann by no more than a few feet, the driver of the sedan honking his horn in angry reaction.

INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD REAR OF CAR
Mann struggling to control the zigzag whipping of his car as the blue sedan speeds off to b.g., horn honking.

MOVING SHOT - CAR
Camera pulling ahead of it. Mann is able to regain control and his car straightens out.

INT. CAR - CLOSE ON MANN
A dazed expression on his face.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

FADE IN

74 INT. CAR - CLOSE ON MANN

A continuation of Scene #73.

MANN' THOUGHT

My God.

(pause)

My God. He wanted me to hit that car head on.

He blinks, shakes his head, swallows; manages to control his breathing.

MANN'S THOUGHT

Boy, oh, boy, oh, boy.

He stares at the truck ahead.

75 POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER

MANN'S THOUGHT

(incredulously)

Not only meant for me to be killed but a totally innocent passerby as well.

76 CLOSE ON MANN

MANN

Holy Mackeral.

Irritated suddenly by the radio on which a singing commercial is being performed, he reaches out and jerks the knob around, turning off the radio. He drives in seething silence.

77 ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK

As he starts reacting once more to the dark exhaust fumes of the truck, breath quickening, sounds of mounting aggravation in his throat. The highway ahead curves to the left and we see that there is no approaching car in sight. Abruptly, Mann steers left into the other lane. The truck edges over to block his way. Immediately, Mann forces down the horn bar, nois as it down. We cannot hear what he is saying though we realize that he is cursing at the truck driver.

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MANN
Come on, you miserable lunatic!
Move your fat-ended truck out of my way!

The truck remains in front of him. Mann lets up on the horn bar, breathing hard, steers back into the proper lane. The truck and trailer do the same.

CLOSE ON MANN

His anger fading to be replaced by a kind of pained wonderment as he stares at the truck ahead.

MANN'S THOUGHT
What is with you anyway? I pass your stupid rig a couple of times and you go flying off the deep end. Are you nuts or something?

He nods tensely

MANN'S THOUGHT
'No other explanation.

He grimaces at the fumes again.

MANN
Those fumes. Could die from them.

He lets up on the accelerator pedal.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK

Moving ahead as Mann slows down.

MANN'S THOUGHT
I'm never gonna make that appointment.

CLOSE ON MANN

MANN'S THOUGHT (irritably)
Where are the police around here anyway?

He makes a scoffing noise.

CONTINUED
MANN'S THOUGHT

What police?
(beat)
Here in the boondocks? They probably have a Sheriff on horseback.

MANN
(an aggravated imitation of this 'Sheriff')
Well, I guess it's time to saddle up and check out that new fangled highway -- ain't been out there for a month or two.

He starts to smile, then gets a startled look on his face as the car begins to bounce. He looks at the highway.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - HIGHWAY AHEAD

The paving consists of pitted slabs with gaps between them.

CLOSE ON MANN

Looking toward the truck and trailer.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER

Jolting up and down.

MANN'S VOICE

I hope it shakes your brains loose.
(beat)
If you have any.

CLOSE ON MANN

Face set against the jarring impacts as he drives. After awhile, the jarring stops. Shortly thereafter, Mann sees something ahead that makes him smile with satisfaction.

Ah.
(pauses; more loudly)

Ah.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER

Almost to the base of a long, steep hill.
CLOSE ON MANN

His smile of satisfaction disappearing as he glances at the dashboard clock. He makes a worried sound.

INSERT - DASHBOARD

The time is 12:13.

MANN' VOICE

I've gotta move.

INT. CAR - INSERT - DASHBOARD CLOCK

The time now 12:21.

HELIICOPTER SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER AND CAR

Moving up the steep, curving grade, the truck's motor grinding noisily, Mann's car about thirty yards behind.

INT. CAR - CLOSE ON MANN

Looking ahead for an appropriate place to pass.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER

Moving slowly up the grade.

MANN

Poised and ready for his chance; trying to ignore the fumes which are setting his stomach on edge. Finally he sees what he's looking for.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER AND GRADE AHEAD

The highway beginning to curve to the left. No approaching cars in sight. Camera zooms in on a turnout for the other lane.

CLOSE ON MANN

Flooring the accelerator pedal, he shoots into the opposite lane.
ANGLE PASS MANN - TOWARD TRUCK

The slow moving truck begins to angle out in front of him. Mann keeps steering toward the left. By the time he is past the trailer, he runs out of paving and his car speeds onto the dirt turnoff, camera drawing around to his left to keep the truck and trailer in view. Clouds of dust start billowing around the car, obscuring the truck from sight.

MANN
(tightly)
Look out. Look out.

MOVING SHOT - CAR

Camera pulling ahead of it as it rakes across the turnoff, tires buzzing and crackling on the dirt, then shoots back onto the highway before the turnout stops. The truck cannot be seen through the dust.

INT. CAR - MANN

A look of elation on his face. He glances at the rear view mirror and a barking laugh erupts in his throat.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - REAR VIEW MIRROR

The truck and trailer just emerging from the swirling clouds of dust.

MANN'S VOICE
(fiercely)
How do you like the smell of something rotten in your nose for a change?!

MANN

Face hard with savage glee, he pounds out the rhythm of "Shave and a haircut, two bits" on the horn.

That for you, Jack! Haah!

He chuckles to himself, starts cranking down the window.

HELIICOPTOR SHOT - CAR

As it sweeps across the summit of the hill and starts down a long, curving grade toward another valley.
101 INT. CAR - MANN

Turning on the radio and twisting the knob until he finds a jolting rock music number, he starts to beat time with it on the steering wheel rim, a look of spiteful pleasure on his face. The view ahead begins to please him.

MANN
The scenic route, man.

102 POINT OF VIEW SHOT - THE VIEW AHEAD

A striking vista: sunlit hills and desert. O.s. we hear the rock music. Abruptly, it stops, we hear the sound of stations being bypassed on the radio dial, then a station settled on which is playing soft, pleasant music.

103 MANN

Straightening up and settling back against the seat, looking through the windshield at the view; calming down. The wind ruffles his hair again.

MANN
Pretty.

104 ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD THE VALLEY AHEAD

Mann hums with the radio music, the car passes a boulder with the word Comets painted cruelly on it.

MANN
(blithely)
And who, pray tell, are the Comets?

He starts to whistle with the music. The car passes another sign: Chuck's Cafe -- 7 Miles Ahead.

MANN
No thanks, Chuck. If you don't mind, I'll just keep moving; time's definitely wasting.

105 ANGLE ON HIGHWAY - MANN'S CAR

As it speeds away from camera and disappears around a gradual curve. Camera holds. It is still for several moments. Then, faintly, in the distance behind camera, we hear the approaching sound of the truck motor.
INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN

The downgrade of the highway visible behind him through the rear window. After awhile, the truck appears, closing in on Mann's car. Mann fails to notice it at first. The truck comes closer. Mann continues whistling with the radio music. The massive truck looms in the b.g., getting very near. Mann hums and taps the steering wheel. Finally, the sound of the truck's motor reaches him and he glances at the rear view mirror. Instantly, his face reflects his stunned reaction.

MANN

(feeably)

He's crazy.

Swallowing, he presses down on the accelerator pedal and his car begins to pick up speed.

MOVING SHOT - CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER

Moving down the widely curving slope at increasing speeds. The car pulls ahead, then the truck goes faster, closing the gap.

INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

Mann's face stiffened as he speeds down the slope. He glances at the rear view mirror, looks back down. The truck is gaining on him steadily. He depresses the accelerator pedal further, starts to pull ahead again.

MOVING SHOT - CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER

Moving into a gradual, right-hand curve.

INT. CAR - MANN

Leaning to the right, he brakes a little and the truck begins to gain on him again. Emerging from the curve, he looks at the rear view mirror, makes a sound of apprehension. He jars his foot down on the pedal and his car leaps forward.

SIDE SHOT - CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER

As first one, then the other, shoots into frame, camera panning quickly to follow their movement. Now the grade ahead runs straight down several miles to the valley.
HELICOPTER SHOT - CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER

Picking up speed as they start down the final stretch of grade. The truck closes in. The car goes faster, widening the gap. The truck goes faster, closing it. The car goes faster, then the truck again.

INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

He glances at the rear view mirror, makes a faint noise in his throat, looks down and presses in the accelerator pedal even more, starts to pull away from the truck. It picks up speed and starts to close in once more. Mann glances at the speedometer; reacts.

INSERT - SPEEDOMETER

Reaching 83 miles per hour.

HELICOPTER SHOT - CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER

Hurtling down the slope, the truck shortening the distance between them.

INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

The truck so close now that its huge, square radiator grill is starting to fill the back window. Mann glances at the rear view mirror, makes a whimpering sound and looks down, pressing in the accelerator pedal more. The car pulls forward, widening the distance.

MOVING SHOT - CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER

Camera pulling ahead of them in the opposite lane as they bullet down the slope, the truck motor howling as it starts to close in once again.

INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

Its square front coming closer and closer. Mann glances at the rear view mirror, looks down, teeth clenched. He gazes at the highway ahead with desperation. His face reflects the sudden burst of hope he gets, seeing what's ahead.
119  POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TURNOFF

About a quarter of a mile distant.

120  ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

Mann braces himself to try the turnoff.

121  ANGLE FROM TURNOFF - TOWARD HIGHWAY

The car and truck approaching at speeds of 90 miles an hour. Mann's car starts edging over, then, as it reaches the turnoff, camera zooms in on the windshield.

122  INT. CAR - CLOSE ON MANN

MANN'S THOUGHT
Don't! You'll turn over!

123  ANGLE FROM TURNOFF - TOWARD HIGHWAY

Camera shooting toward the valley now. Mann's car roars off, pursued at close range by the truck and trailer.

124  INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

The truck so close now that only the lower portion of its front is visible through the rear window. Mann glances up at the rear view mirror, makes a panicky sound. He presses down on the accelerator pedal, pulls ahead again, glances at the speedometer, makes a sound of agonized foreboding.

125  INSERT - SPEEDOMETER

Registering 94 miles an hour.

126  MOVING SHOT - CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER

Descending the slope which is beginning to level now.
INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

Mann glances at the rear view mirror again. Seeing how close the truck is causes blind fury to lance through his fear and he begins to honk his horn with frightened rage. This only causes the truck driver to close the distance between them even more. Mann glances at the rear view mirror and his expression collapses.

MANN'S THOUGHT
(dazed)
He's gonna kill me.

Teeth set against the rise of incapacitating panic, he presses down on the accelerator even more and pulls ahead.

HELICOPTER SHOT - CAR AND TRUCK

The pursuit continuing down the slope. Retaining the two vehicles in frame, the camera slowly draws around until we see the valley ahead. In the distance is a low building surrounded by open ground, two trucks, one large, one a pick-up, and two cars parked in front of it. Mann's car reaches the base of the slope.

INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

Mann looking ahead with desperate resolve.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - BUILDING

A sign above it reading: Chuck's Cafe. The car comes closer to it.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

Bracing himself, Mann accelerates and starts to pull away from the truck, looking ahead tensely.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - CAFE AND GROUNDS

Very close now. We see a pair of gas pumps about 25 feet in front of the cafe.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

A moment; two. Suddenly, Mann starts to brake and swerve to the right.
134 MOVING SHOT - CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER

Camera pulling into the area around the cafe as Mann's car rakes across the open ground. Immediately, it starts to fishtail.

135 INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD HIGHWAY

Showing the truck and trailer shooting by on the highway as Mann attempts to keep his car under control.

136 MOVING SHOT - CAR

Its rear end lashing from side to side, spewing dirt and raising clouds of dust. As it passes the gas pumps, the fishtailing movement starts to become a careening skid.

137 INT. CAR - MANN

Face distorting.

MANN'S THOUGHT

Steer with it!

He steers into the skid, braking as much as he can.

138 MOVING SHOT - CAR

Straightening out a little, heading toward the left side of the cafe. It almost sideswipes one of the parked cars as it skids by it.

139 INT. CAR - MANN

The trucks, cars and cafe flying by outside. He manages to straighten out the car a little more and presses on the brake pedal.

140 MOVING SHOT - CAR

slowing down as it leaves the cafe behind.

141 INT. CAR - MANN

reacting as he sees what's dead ahead. He presses the brake pedal in further.
POINT OF VIEW SHOT - BARBED WIRE FENCE
Separating the open area around the cafe from the desert.

CLOSE ON MANN'S FOOT
pressing in further on the brake pedal.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD FENCE
The car is almost to it now.

UP ANGLE ON MANN
as he drives the brake pedal to the floor.

MOVING SHOT - CAR
Camera pulling ahead of it as its rear end brakes to the right and it spins half around, sheering sideways to a halt in a cloud of dust as the camera passes over the barbed wire fence and stops.

INT. CAR - MANN
Flung against the harness strap, his neck wrenched by the sudden stop. He cries out dully and reaches up with his left hand to clasp at the back of his neck, grimacing with pain. He makes faint noises in his throat, eyes closed, body slumped. Camera holds, everything totally motionless.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

FADE IN

INT. CAR - MANN

The only sound that of his erratic breathing. He presses his right hand over his heart, making a sound of reaction to its heavy beat.

MANN'S THOUGHT

Oh, wow, it's pounding.

(pause)

No wonder.

He rubs at his neck, hissing. O.S. footsteps make him open his eyes abruptly and look around so fast that he hisses again at the new pain in his neck.

ANOTHER ANGLE - INCLUDING OLD MAN

In overalls and yellow flannel shirt, a hat on his head, a toothpick protruding from the side of his mouth. In the b.g. near the cafe, several men stand, looking curiously toward the car.

OLD MAN

You all right, mister?

MANN

(swallowing)

Except for my neck.

OLD MAN

Got y'self a whiplash prob'ly.

Mann grunts. The old man looks toward the others.

OLD MAN

He's all right!

The men remain watching.

OLD MAN

What happened?

MANN

Truck driver tried to kill me.

OLD MAN

Kill ya?

(beat; awed)

Go on.
MANN
Chased me down the hill at more
than ninety miles an hour.

OLD MAN
Yeah, I saw 'im flyin' by.
(beat)
Tried to kill ya.

He whistles softly as Mann nods, then, wincing, has to stop.
He rubs his neck.

OLD MAN
Sure looks like ya got y'self a
whiplash all right.
(pause)
Anything I can do for ya?

MANN
No, thank you.

OLD MAN
Okay.
(nodding)

In the b.g. one of the men goes back into the cafe.
Another starts approaching. The old man looks at Mann in
silence for a few moments.

OLD MAN
Tried to kill ya.

He grunts, mightily impressed by this. Mann nods a little.

OLD MAN
He must be crazy.

MANN
(grimly)
I know he's crazy.

The old man chuckles briefly and without humor.

OLD MAN
Ought t'be arrested.

MANN
You said it.

OLD MAN
(nods; pause)
Well, you take it easy now.

MANN
Thank you.
CONTINUED - 2

The old man turns away and starts back toward the cafe. Seeing the approaching man, he speaks.

OLD MAN
He's all right. Got himself a little whiplash, that's all.

The other man waits for him and they both start back toward the cafe, the second man questioning the old man. Mann slowly releases the harness strap and, pulling his key ring free from the dashboard, opens the door.

ANGLE ON CAR - MANN

His legs give as he stands and, making a startled noise, he grabs the door to keep them from buckling.

MANN
Wow. (whistles softly) What an experience.

After a few moments, he closes the door and starts toward the cafe, dropping the key ring into his right trouser pocket. He rubs at the back of his neck as he walks, camera panning to follow his movement, then stopping. He moves away from camera, having difficulty with his legs.

MOVING SHOT - MANN

Looking washed out as he moves toward the cafe, rubbing the back of his neck.

MANN'S THOUGHT
I'll never make that appointment now.
(pause)
Oh, what's the difference.

ANGLE PAST CORNER OF CAFE - TOWARD MANN

Camera draws around as he turns the corner. He glances aside as a car motor starts o.s.

MOVING SHOT - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD OLD MAN'S CAR

As his battered coupe pulls away, the old man taps the back of his neck with one finger as though to remind Mann that he probably has a whiplash. Mann raises his right hand in a returned gesture, then looks toward the cafe, frowning as he sees a sign in the window.
MOVING SHOT - SIGN - MANN'S POINT OF VIEW

The sign reads TRUCKERS WELCOME.

MOVING SHOT - MANN

Making a shuddery repelled sound; looking away from the sign.

INT. CAFE - ANGLE ON DOOR

O.s., the sound of juke box music playing, a murmur of voices. Mann comes in and heads back for the washroom, looking straight ahead, camera pulling close ahead of him.

VOICE
(Owner's)
What happened out there, mister?

MANN
In a minute.

He does not look to either side, feeling awkward, sure that everyone is looking at him. **We do not get a clear view of anyone,** the camera pulling ahead of Mann too closely. Reaching the rear of the cafe, he walks along a narrow hallway, then turns left. Camera pans, then stops as Mann opens a door and goes into the Men's room. The door shuts and we see the sign GENTS on the door.

INT. MEN'S ROOM

Small and dingy. Moving to the sink, Mann twists the right hand faucet and leans over to cup cold water in his palms, hissing at the pain it causes in his neck. He splashes water in his face for several moments before straightening up. The only sounds are those of the running water and the juke box music pulsing faintly o.s. Mann tugs down several paper towels from their dispenser and pats them against his dripping face. He twists his head around gingerly, experimentally, wincing.

MANN'S THOUGHT
Take a couple of aspirins.

Dropping the paper towels into a wastebasket, he regards his reflection in the wall mirror above the sink.

MANN
Still among the living, I see.

Swallowing, he removes a metal comb from his back trouser pocket and begins to neaten his hair, grimacing slightly at the pain his movements cause in his neck.

CONTINUED
MANN'S THOUGHT
You never know.
(pause)
You just never know.
(beat)
You just go along figuring some things don't change. Ever. Like being able to drive on a public highway without somebody trying to murder you.

He finishes with his hair and starts to wash his hands.

MANN'S THOUGHT
Then one stupid thing happens -- twenty, twenty-five minutes out of your whole life -- and all the ropes that kept you hanging in there get cut loose.

He pulls down more paper towels and starts to dry his hands, looking at his reflection again.

MANN'S THOUGHT
And it's like there you are -- right back in the jungle again.

INT. NARROW HALLWAY - ANGLE ON DOOR TO MEN'S ROOM

After several moments, Mann opens the door and comes out. As he reaches close f. q. camera starts to pull ahead of him. He moves into the cafe and turns to the right, sighing heavily.

MANN'S THOUGHT
All right, boy, it was a nightmare but it's over now.

Camera draws around, then stops as he sits in the back booth and picks up a menu from its rack, opens it and starts to look at it.

OWNER'S VOICE
You all right?

He looks toward the counter.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD COUNTER

The owner, wearing a wrinkled, soiled apron over his clothes, is looking over from the stove near the rear of the counter. He is the only man we see.

CONTINUED
MANN
(not wanting to talk)
Fine; thank you.

OWNER
What happened out there?

MANN
Oh. Just a little... complication, you might say.

OWNER
Oh?

ANGLE ON MANN
looking back at the menu to prevent further conversation

MAN'S VOICE
(gibing)
Looked like a big complication to me.

General laughter. Mann does not raise his eyes.

MANN'S THOUGHT
And how about minding your own business.

(pause)
Book a nice hotel room, when I get there, order me a bottle of something expensive; soak my poor abused neck in a hot bath ——

He starts to look up toward the front of the cafe, ready to order.

MANN'S THOUGHT
(finishing)
— and forget the whole thing.

Instantly, his breath stops as he gapes in shock toward the front window of the cafe.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - FRONT WINDOW
Camera zooms in on the window. The truck and trailer are parked in front, cutting off the view of the two gas pumps.
162  CLOSE ON MANN

Staring at the truck in unbelieving shock.

MANN'S THOUGHT

It isn't true.  
(pause)
He won.  
(with mounting anger and fear)

MANN'S THOUGHT

He had the whole highway to himself! Why did he have to come back?!

His lips begin to tremble and he presses them together. Suddenly he stiffens, looking at the customers in the cafe.

163  POINT OF VIEW SHOT - CUSTOMERS

Five men in all, three along the counter, two in booths near the front. 'Two at the counter are chatting with the waitress. The third is near the front.'

164  CLOSE ON MANN

Looking at the man tensely.

165  POINT OF VIEW SHOT - MAN

His pants and shoes similar to those we saw earlier.

166  CLOSE ON MANN

Staring at the man. After several moments, he glances at the two men in the booths just to make certain. His features tense.

167  POINT OF VIEW SHOT - MAN IN FRONT BOOTH

His back to camera, his left leg sticking out in view. Camera zooms in on it. It is also garbed in similar pants and the foot has a shoe on it which might well be the one we saw earlier.

168  CLOSE ON MANN

looking ill. His gaze shifts from one man to the other, stops at the man at the counter.
The man is turning his head to look toward the back of the cafe. Abruptly, Mann jerks up the menu, cutting off the sight of the man. Camera draws around slowly to show him staring sightlessly at the menu, his expression one of mounting torment.

MANN'S THOUGHT
Why didn't I look at faces when I came in? Now there's no way of knowing which one it is.

He twitches as the waitress speaks o.s.

WAITRESS
(not too genial)
You ready t'order?

Mann looking at her blankly before answering.

MANN
Uh...yes, I-I'll have a --
(looking at the menu)
A...ham on rye and -- a bottle of beer, please.

She turns away. The juke box music stops.

MANN
(a little too loudly)
And do you have ---?

He breaks off as she stops and looks across her shoulder at him. He tries to smile.

MANN
Do you have any aspirin?

She grunts and moves out of frame, Mann watches her go, then glances uneasily toward the man at the counter, looks down at the table, drawing in tremulous breath. He swallows. Abruptly, he attempts to put the menu back in its rack. He cannot manage it and finally drops it on the table, drawing in another strained breath. He clasps his hands on the table, staring at them. Juke box music starts again, a driving jazz piece.
171 INSERT - MANN'S CLASPED HANDS
Trembling slightly.

172 MANN

as he presses his lips together, angry at himself now. Camera moves in very slowly on his face.

MANN'S THOUGHT
Now wait a minute.
(beat)
All right, he's in here. That doesn't automatically mean he intends to continue his...attack.

He looks at his wristwatch. The evidence it gives him helps his rationale.

MANN'S THOUGHT
It is lunchtime.
(beat)
And Chuck's cafe may be the only place to eat for miles around.

He clasps his hands on the table again, trying hard to believe himself.

MANN'S THOUGHT
He probably eats here all the time. He was just moving too fast before; he had to slow down, turn around, that's all.
(pause; weakening)
That's all.

He cannot retain the flimsy conviction. His expression shows it.

MANN'S THOUGHT
(miserably)
Why didn't I leave when I saw his truck outside? Then I'd know what he intends to do.
(pause; with increasing speed)
What if he followed me out though? -- started after me again? I'd be right back where I started. Even if I got a lead, he'd overtake me soon enough. My car's just not that powerful -- and I doubt it's in me to drive 80 and 90 miles an hour.

CONTINUED
Continued

MANN'S THOUGHT (Cont'd)
As soon as I stopped concentrating,
I'd go back to 55 like I always do.
It's a habit, I can't help it. He'd just ---

His thought voice breaks off and he jams his lips out
together, face in extreme close up now. Camera stops and
holds.

MANN'S THOUGHT
Take it easy!
The spasm of mindless dread passes after awhile and he looks
toward the man again.

MANN'S THOUGHT
Maybe I should try to make some kind
of contact.

Point of View Shot - Man at Counter

We hear Mann's footsteps approaching him.

MANN'S VOICE
Look mister, I'm sorry I irritated
you. Let me buy you a beer and get
this thing straightened out, hunh?

Camera pans to the man in the booth and we hear Mann's footsteps
again.

MANN'S VOICE
Look; mister, I'm sorry I irritated
you. Let me ---

Back to Mann

A hopeless look on his face.

MANN'S THOUGHT
No.
(beat)
If he is letting the whole thing
drop, that would only get him angry
again...whichever one it is.
(agonized fury)
Which one!

He averts his eyes, stares at the table, drained by indecision; (X)
starts as the waitress enters frame and sets down the sandwich
and the bottle of beer, a small tin of aspirin tablets.

continued
WAITRESS
Anything else?

MANN
Uh...no; no, thank you.

He opens the tin of aspirin and takes out two tablets as the waitress makes out the check and tosses it on the table, turns away. Mann glances up at her.

MANN'S THOUGHT
(irritably)
What's with you?...I just snubbed your boss? Your husband? Your boy friend?...or does aspirin tag me a sissy in this place.

He washes down the tablets with a swallow of beer. Setting down the sweaty bottle, he takes a bite of the sandwich, grimaces.

MANN'S THOUGHT
When did you buy this bread, last Christmas?

He chews doggedly, finally draws a piece of leathery ham from between his teeth and looks at it distastefully.

MANN (SOTTO VOCE)
And what shoe did this come off?

He sighs and takes another bite of the sandwich. Chewing, he looks to one side.

ANGLE PAST WALL PAY TELEPHONE - TOWARD MANN

He does not make anything of it at first. Then his eyes focus on the telephone.

MANN'S THOUGHT
What if I called the local police?
Told them what was happening?

Camera starts to move in on him.

MANN'S THOUGHT
Then, I'd have to stay here, lose more time.

(beat)
What if that guy stayed too? Actually talked to the police? Naturally, he'd deny everything. I have no proof; I'm sure none of these people would back me up. The cops would probably

CONTINUED
CONTINUED

MANNE'S THOUGHT (Cont'd)
believe him. Then, after they were
gone, he'd take it out on me again,
only worse.

He is in close shot now, the torment evident on his face.
Abruptly, he puts the sandwich on the plate and pushes the
plate away from himself, drawing in a shuddering breath.

MANNE'S THOUGHT
(a cry for help)
What am I gonna do?

Several moments pass. Abruptly, then, his gaze leaps toward
the front of the counter.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - MAN AT COUNTER
getting up and moving toward the cash register.

CLOSE ON MANN
watching tensely.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - MAN
stopping at the cash register and setting down the check,
reaching into his pants pocket.

MANN
watching.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - MAN AND WAITRESS
The man taking two crumpled dollar bills from the pocket of
his pants and tossing them onto the glass case. The waitress
picks them up.

MANN
watching; tension building.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - MAN AND WAITRESS
The waitress gives the man his change and, taking a toothpick
from its dispenser, the man turns for the door, sticking the
change into his pants pocket.
CLOSE ON MANN
watching; waiting; sitting woodenly, his face a mask.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - MAN
going outside, he moves out of sight.

MANN
waiting, statue-like. Suddenly, he reacts.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - FRONT WINDOW
Camera moves in quickly on the window as the man drives by outside in the pick-up truck.

CLOSE ON MANN
The juke box music reaches a howling, pounding crescendo of jazz, then stops. In the sudden, deathly silence, Mann's gaze jumps to the man in the front booth.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - MAN IN FRONT BOOTH
his back to camera as he eats. He leans over and puts a coin in the juke box selector.

MANN
staring at the man. He twitches as juke box music starts with a crashing chord, the same jazz piece again. Swallowing, he draws a breath, eyes fixed on the man.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - MAN IN FRONT BOOTH
Camera holds on him.

MANN
Tension mounting visibly on his face and in his posture. Camera moves in slowly on his face until it fills the screen. Suddenly, he jars to his feet, camera pulling away to show him grabbing up the check and moving toward the front of the cafe, looking at the man.
192 **POINT OF VIEW SHOT - MAN**
Camera approaching him.

193 **MOVING SHOT - CLOSE ON MANN**
Moving resolutely toward the front booth. His mouth tightens as he notices the man's left hand.

194 **POINT OF VIEW SHOT - MAN**
Camera moves in on his left hand holding a sandwich. It is square and darkly tanned with large veins knotted on its surface.

195 **CLOSE ON MANN**
as he stops beside the table, glaring down at the man with a combination of fear and hatred.

196 **POINT OF VIEW SHOT - MAN**
eating his sandwich stolidly.

197 **UP ANGLE ON MANN**
gazing down at the man.

198 **POINT OF VIEW SHOT - MAN**
Turning his head slowly to look up at Mann. Camera withdraws to include Mann, in the b.g., the waitress, owner and two men start to watch as the conversation progresses, pitched above the volume of the juke box music.

**MAN**
You want somethin'?

**MANN**
(tightly controlled)
I want you to cut it out.

**What?**

**MAN**

**MANN**
You heard me.

CONTINUED
MAN
Cut what out?

MANN
(voice shaking)
Let's not play games.

MAN
What the....
(hell are you talking about)

MANN
(cutting him off)
I can call the police, you know.

MAN
Police?

MANN
You think I won't? Well, you're wrong, Mister.
(pointing shakily toward the truck)
You can't use that...rig of yours as a murder weapon and think
nobody's going to say a thing about it. I got news for you.
You're wrong.

He glares at the man, breathing hard, ready to blow. The man glances toward the people in the b.g., grins a little, then looks back at Mann.

MAN
(contemptuously)
Man, you need help.

It all explodes in Mann and, with a maddened look, he slaps the sandwich from the man's hand.

MANN
Don't tell me I need help, you lousy --!

He breaks off startledly as the man lunges up at him, suddenly enraged. They grapple for a moment, then the man drives a short right to Mann's stomach. Mann doubles over, clutching at his stomach, his face gone blank. The man delivers a wild haymaker with his left, hits Mann on the shoulder and knocks him against the table of the booth. The owner starts to run around the counter angrily.

CONTINUED
CONTINUED - 2

OWNER
Hey! Hey!

REVERSE SHOT - TOWARD WALL

The man grabs Mann by the left arm and jerks him back on his feet.

MAN
(viciously)
Who d'ya think you are knockin'
my san'wich out o' my hand!

OWNER
You wanna fight, go on outside!

MAN
Damn right I wanna fight! I
wanna knock this creep's head
off!

OWNER
Y'already hit him twice! What
more d'ya want?

MAN
I wanna --!

OWNER
(cutting him off)
Can't ya' see he's sick? He
can't fight no one!

The man glares at Mann, slowly regaining control of himself.

MAN
Creep comes up and knocks my san'wich
out o' my hand.

OWNER
(trying to settle
things)
Come on, I'll make ya' another
one.

The man makes a sound of angry resistance but allows the owner
to turn him away. The juke box music stops.

OWNER
(to Mann)
Why don't you get out o' here?

Mann cannot respond, holding both hands pressed against his
stomach. The owner and the man move out of frame and

CONTINUED
camera moves in on Mann. He closes his eyes, wincing, making a soft, gagging noise. After a few moments, he looks up as the o.s. man speaks.

MAN
Anh, forget it, I don' wanna stay here anyway.

Mann stares at the man, cringing slightly as the man enters frame and snatches his check off the table, turns out of frame again. Mann keeps watching him.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - MAN
moving to the cash register.

ANGLE PAST MAN - TOWARD MANN
Mann watching as the man pays his bill and, turning, moves out of frame. Mann's head starts to turn.

CLOSE ON MANN
completing the turn of his head to watch the man open the o.s. door and go outside. The door shuts.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - MAN
moving out of sight.

MANN
pushing slowly to his feet and moving to the window, camera moving with him. He stops.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - MAN
striding angrily across the ground. The truck and trailer are in b.g. but the man does not seem to be heading for them.

EXT. CAFE - ANGLE THROUGH WINDOW - MANN
his expression altering as he sees what's happening.
207 INT. CAFE - CLOSE ON MANN
His expression becoming one of shock.

208 POINT OF VIEW SHOT - MAN
Getting into the other truck.

209 CLOSE ON MANN
looking abruptly toward the truck and trailer.

210 POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER
On the other side of the truck, we see the legs of the driver and those of the attendant. Camera zooms in on the pants and nondescript shoes of the driver.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE
FADE IN

211 EXT. CAFE - ANGLE THROUGH WINDOW - MANN

so appalled that he can scarcely register what's happened. O.s., the other truck motor is switched on and, after several moments, the reflection of the truck passes on the window as the man drives it past the cafe and out of sight.

212 INT. CAFE - CLOSE ON MANN

staring out the window. After several moments, he turns away and moves to the booth, camera drawing around to show the others in b.g., looking at him. He stops and stares at the o.s. wall with dazed, unblinking eyes. Seconds pass. Suddenly, he jerks his head around as he hears the sound of the truck motor being turned on.

213 POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER

slowly starting to roll away from the gas pumps.

214 CLOSE ON MANN

watching it, stunned. Suddenly, it all erupts inside of him again and he lunges for the door, camera drawing around to follow his movement. The owner calls out as Mann jerks open the door.

OWNER

Hey!

215 EXT. CAFE - ANGLE ON DOOR

as Mann runs out and races toward the truck, his expression half mad. In the cafe, the owner rushes after him. Camera starts to pull ahead of Mann.

216 POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK

The driver shifts gears and it travels faster toward the highway.
MOVING SHOT - MANN

chasing the truck with a sense of martyred outrage. In b.g., the owner of the cafe runs after him. Mann reaches the rear of the trailer, starts along its side, shouting, his voice unheard because of the grinding volume of the truck's motor.

MANN
Don't you run away from me, you spineless fink. You wanna fight, let's fight like men! Don't hide inside that crummy truck, you dirty, stinking....

The truck begins outdistancing him. His shouting becomes audible.

MANN
Stop, damnit! Stop!

Gradually, the truck pulls out of frame and Mann stops running, stands there, panting, staring after it.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK

as it moves onto the highway, picking up speed. The owner runs into frame and stops.

OWNER
(breathlessly)
What d'ya think you're doin', Mister?

Mann looks at him, then back at the truck.

OWNER
I'm talkin' t'ya, Mister!

MANN
(overlapping on 'talkin'; savagely)
Nothing! I'm doing nothing!

He looks back toward the truck. The owner gazes at him, perplexed by his behavior. The truck recedes down the highway, moves around a distant hill and disappears. Mann shudders. He sucks in trembling breath.

INT. CAFE - CLOSE ON WALL PAY TELEPHONE

as Mann's hand slips quarters and dimes into the slots, then pulls out of frame. Camera withdraws to show him standing by the telephone, the receiver at his ear and lips. After several moments, someone answers on the other end of the line.
Mr. Forbes, please. David Mann calling.
(listens)
Oh, I see. Could I leave a message then?
(listens)
I had a three-thirty appointment
with Mr. Forbes. Would you tell
him I've had some car trouble and
won't be able to make it.
(listens)
How long is he in the office after
lunch?
(listens)
I should be there before
then. Would you tell him I'll
phone as soon as I arrive?
(listens)
Thank you.

Hanging up, he turns toward the front of the cafe.

Mann removes a money clip from his trouser pocket, takes two
dollar bills from it, and, stopping by the register, sets
them on the glass case with the check. The owner takes the
money, sticks the check in its register slot and rings up
the sale. He takes Mann's change from the register drawer
and dumps it on the glass case. Mann picks it up, puts down
a quarter.

(mutedly)
Would you give this to --- ?

He gestures toward the waitress with his head. Without
waiting for an answer, he turns for the door.

As Mann comes out, the people inside begin to discuss what
happened. Camera moves with Mann as he turns to the right
and walks to the end of the cafe, turns.

Camera pulling ahead of him as he walks toward the car.
INT. CAR - ANGLE TOWARD CAFE

Mann approaching. He reaches the car and gets inside, takes the key ring out of his trouser pocket and inserts the ignition key, then closes his eyes, draws in a long breath through his nostrils and exhales it slowly.

MANN'S THOUGHT

Right; it's over.

Opening his eyes after a few moments, he reaches into the back seat for his suit coat, removes a box of thin cigars from an inside pocket and lights one. Blowing out smoke with a sigh, he switches on the motor, puts the transmission into Reverse and turns left as he backs away from the fence. He brakes, puts the transmission into Drive and turns toward the highway.

MANN'S THOUGHT

I'll take my time.

MANN

Just take my time.

INT. CAR - MANN

smoking and trying to relax as he drives.

MANN'S THOUGHT

No need to hurry now. I'll just cruise along at thirty, let that idiot get out of range.

MOVING SHOT - MANN'S CAR

moving along the highway at thirty miles an hour. A car comes up behind him, pulls into the opposite lane and passes.

INT. CAR - MANN

grunting with amusement.
CONTINUED

MANN'S THOUGHT
Don't go too fast, buddy or you'll catch up to the bloody Red Baron.

His expression ceases to be one of amusement as a thought occurs to him.

MANN'S THOUGHT
Lord, maybe that's how my friend, the sadist, whiles his time away; picking on innocent drivers.
(pause; repelled)
Oh, wow. Is that possible?

He blows out a soft, whistling breath and shakes his head.

HELICOPTER SHOT - MANN'S CAR
moving along the two-lane highway at thirty miles an hour.

INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD HIGHWAY AHEAD - LATER

He has finished the cigar and is tamping it out in the ashtray. The highway ahead curves gradually to the left, disappearing behind a hill.

MANN'S THOUGHT
Well, outside of Crazy Jack, it's not too bad a day for driving. Highway nice and empty.

He chuckles.

MANN'S THOUGHT
Maybe everybody stays at home when Crazy Jack is out.

REVERSE ANGLE

His car has picked up speed a little and he lets up on the accelerator pedal.

MANN'S THOUGHT
Easy does it, boy. Thirty miles an hour, no faster.
(pause)
I'll just take my time.
(pause)
Take my sweet ti ---

His thought voice terminates abruptly as he sees, ahead:
THE TRUCK AND TRAILER - MANN'S POINT OF VIEW

in the distance creeping along the highway at approximately fifteen miles an hour.

MANN

staring at the truck, half furious, half fearful.

MANN

(bitterly)
And he'll take his... just waiting for me.

He slows down, gaze moving to the right.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - GAS STATION

about a hundred and fifty yards ahead: old and battered with some low structures in back, an office shack near the pumps.

INT. CAR - MANN

face hardening as he decides what to do.

MANN

All right; if that's the way you want it.

He speeds up and, reaching the station, turns in beside the pumps and brakes. He opens the door abruptly.

EXT. STATION - ANGLE ON CAR

Mann gets out of the car, slams the door and starts around the back of the car, heading for the office. Camera draws ahead of him.

MANN

(sotto voce)
That does it, Jack.

MOVING SHOT - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD OFFICE

An Old Lady wearing stained, fingerless gloves, emerges from the office.

CONTINUED
CONTINUED

OLD LADY
Help you, Mister?

Mann gestures toward the office with his head.

MANN
Telephone in there?

OLD LADY
(pointing)
Out in back.

MANN
(changing direction)
Thank you.

OLD LADY
(accusingly)
Somethin' fer yer car?

Mann slows down, looking at her.

MANN
Uh...well, see whatever Ethyl you can get in the tank.

OLD LADY
(mollified)
All right.

She starts for his car, he for the telephone.

MANN
(across his shoulder)
And you might check the radiator hoses.

MOVING SHOT - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD OLD LADY

OLD LADY
I'll do that.
(pause)
Take a look at my snakes if y'have time.

Mann glances around in surprise.

MANN
Your --- ?

CONTINUED
CONTINUED

The Old Lady has turned away and doesn't hear. Still walking, Mann looks to his left, reacts.

MOVING POINT OF VIEW SHOT - THE LOW STRUCTURES

Cages, above them a sign which reads SALLY'S SNAKERAMA STATION.

MOVING SHOT - MANN

making a sound of grim amusement.

MANN

That's all I need.

ANGLE TOWARD SHACK - MANN

approaching. As he reaches f.g. and moves out of frame, camera jerks around so that it points toward the highway ahead. It zooms in on the truck and trailer parked on the shoulder. The driver stands beside it, looking toward the station, too far away to be seen except as a figure obviously watching Mann.

INT. CAGE - CLOSE ON RATTLESNAKE'S EYE

For a moment or two we should believe the eye to be that of the truck driver. Then camera withdraws, revealing the snake, its head reared. O.s., we hear the sound of Mann's passing footsteps.

MOVING SHOT - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD SNAKE

Mann looking at it as he walks by the cage. Inside the cage are a number of snakes, most of them coiled in lethargic heaps, asleep. Mann makes a sound, his smile without humor. Reaching the telephone booth, he goes inside.

INT. TELEPHONE BOOTH - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD SNAKES

muttering to himself as he fumbles in his pocket for change.

MANN

What a place to put a phone booth.

He pulls out change and dumps it on the shelf beside the phone.

CONTINUED
Continued

MANN
Right beside Snakerama.

He has to smile. Then, groaning softly, he picks up a dime and slips it into its slot, dials the operator.

MANN
(singing softly;
quaveringly)
What a day this has been.

Camera slowly pans as he speaks, stopping when it points toward the highway ahead. The truck is moving.

MANN
Give me the police, please.
(listens)
Whichever is closer.
(listens; reading the number on the dial)
985-4321.

He waits. In the distant b.g., the truck has just completed a U-turn and is starting back toward the station.

REVERSE ANGLE

Mann's back to camera. Waiting, he whistles softly to himself. After several moments, there is an answer on the other end of the line.

MANN
I'd like to report a truck driver.

He listens, talks again.

MANN
A truck driver. He's been endangering my life. On Highway --
(breaks off)
All right.

He draws in weary breath; exhales.

MANN
(continuing the song quaveringly)
What a rare mood I'm in.

Faintly now, the sound of the truck motor is heard. Little by little, it grows in volume.
(enunciating)
I'd like to report a truck driver
who's been endangering my life.
(listens)
David Mann.
(listens)
Yes, two "n's".
(listens)
2490 Eldorado Road.

By now the sound of the approaching truck has gotten quite
loud. Mann starts to turn.

MANN
Center City.

He breaks off, horrified, at what he sees.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER
heading straight for the telephone booth.

CLOSE ON MANN
frozen, gaping at the truck and trailer.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER
The truck about twenty yards distant, juggernauting toward
the telephone booth. Abruptly, Mann drops the receiver and
lurches from the booth, turns left and races for his life.

UP ANGLE ON MANN
as he stumbles, loses balance and pitches to the ground,
breaking the fall with his hands. In the b.g. the truck
smashes the telephone booth off its base, mangling and
flinging it aside.

ANGLE TOWARD MANN AND REAR OF TRAILER
As the truck driver turns back toward the highway, the
trailer smashes against the cages, breaking them apart.
Mann shoves to his feet, then topples, wincing, as his
ankle gives. Camera zooms in on him as he looks toward
the shattered snake cages.
POINT OF VIEW SHOT - CAGES

Snakes flung out and crawling in all directions, several toward camera.

DOWN ANGLE ON MANN

He cries out in shock as one of the rattlesnakes flies by him. He struggles to his feet, hissing at the pain in his ankle, starts to run limpingly toward the car. Another rattlesnake slithers toward him. With a revolted sound, Mann changes directions, skirts the snake. Moving camera draws around him, angling up to show, first, the truck and trailer receding down the highway, then the old lady rushing toward Mann, her expression one of angry shock.

OLD LADY

Why'd he do that?

Mann, too stunned to answer, keeps running for his car, limping painfully. She grabs his arm to stop him.

OLD LADY

Why'd he do that? Why'd he break my cages up?

MANN

(panting; numbly)
Call the police.

He jerks away and runs for his car.

OLD LADY

(shouting after him)
With what?! That phone's the only one I got!

She looks away, grimacing with pain at the sight of her snakes.

OLD LADY

My snakes!

She rushes toward them.

ANGLE PAST OPEN HOOD OF CAR - TOWARD MANN

In the b.g., the old lady rushes among her snakes, starting to pick them up one by one. Mann slams down the hood and runs around the car, camera panning with him. Yanking open the door, he jars in clumsily behind the steering wheel and, twisting the ignition key, starts the motor. Jerking the

CONTINUED
transmission shift to Drive, he floors the accelerator pedal. The tires spin, and the car shoots out of frame.

MOVING SHOT – MANN'S CAR

speeding down the highway.

INT. CAR – CLOSE ON MANN

still in a state of shock from what has just occurred. Fumbling, he draws the harness strap across his chest and clips it into place. After awhile, he looks into the rear view mirror and reacts.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT – REAR VIEW MIRROR

Camera moves in on the reflection of the truck and trailer, following him again.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT FOUR
ACT FIVE

FADE IN

256
INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

Mann presses down on the accelerator pedal and his car surges forward. Then reaction sets in and he shakes his head jerkingly.

MANN

Oh, no.
(drawing in shaky breath)
Not again.

He looks ahead as his car starts into a curve which turns to the right around a hill.

257
POINT OF VIEW SHOT - HIGHWAY

As the car turns the curve, we see an old barn ahead, set back several dozen yards from the highway, a one-lane road beside it.

258
ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD REAR OF CAR

The truck and trailer hidden from view behind the hill. Mann starts to slow down.

259
ANGLE ACROSS HIGHWAY - TOWARD SIDE ROAD

The tires of Mann's car squealing as he turns into the road.

260
ANGLE FROM EDGE OF BARN - TOWARD HIGHWAY

Mann turns in and drives behind the barn just before the truck and trailer appear around the curve.

261
INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD HIGHWAY AHEAD

As he bolts to a halt at the other end of the barn, body straining against the harness strap. O.s., we hear the motor of the truck, then the truck and trailer appear, moving down the highway. Mann slumps, rubbing at his neck. Camera draws around him slowly as the truck and trailer move out of sight. He reaches forward and switches off the motor.

MANN'S THOUGHT

Highway's all yours, Jack. I'm not budging for at least an hour.

CONTINUED
He sighs.

MANN'S THOUGHT
Maybe the police'll pull you in by then. Maybe they won't.

MANN
But at least you'll be far away from me.

(beat)
Even at fifteen miles an hour.

He looks at his palms, grimacing at their scraped condition. Taking a handkerchief from his trouser pocket, he begins to wet it with his tongue and clean the dirt stains off his palms. After awhile, he manages a wincing smile. We hear the sound of a telephone ringing. Someone picks up the receiver.

WIFE'S VOICE
Hello?

MANN'S VOICE
Hi, honey. I've arrived.

WIFE'S VOICE
Oh, good. Did you have a nice trip?

Mann makes a sound of pained amusement as he continues cleaning off his palms.

HIGH ANGLE LONG SHOT - CAR BESIDE BARN

INT. CAR - ANGLE ON MANN - TOWARD REAR OF CAR - (FANTASY)

His face a mask of terror. The truck front fills the back window, its motor howling. Mann glances toward the speedometer, reacts.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - SPEEDOMETER - (FANTASY)
registering 120 miles an hour. Suddenly, the sound of an apocalyptic crash.
INT. CAR - CLOSEUP - MANN

as he opens his eyes with a grunt of shock, face wet with perspiration. For several moments, he cannot collect his thoughts and stares ahead blankly. Then he sits up, rubbing his eyes. He looks around sleepily for several seconds before looking at the dashboard clock.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - DASHBOARD CLOCK

Ten minutes after two.

MANN'S VOICE

Oh, boy.

MANN

Yawning, he picks up his handkerchief to dry his face.

MANN'S THOUGHT

I won't be seeing Forbes today, that's for sure.

He looks at his palms and makes a worried noise.

MANN

Gotta get these cleaned off.

With a sigh, he reaches forward and turns the ignition key. The motor starts. Mann puts the transmission into reverse and twists around to look as he begins to back up.

ANGLE ON ONE-LANE ROAD

Mann backs his car past the edge of the barn and onto the road, brakes, puts the transmission into Drive and starts back toward the highway, camera panning to follow the car's movement.

ANGLE FROM HIGHWAY - TOWARD CAR

Mann steers onto the highway and picks up speed, driving past camera.
INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD REAR OF CAR

MANN'S THOUGHT
And so Electronic's number one salesman, David Mann, continues on his merry way.
(pause)
Well, number two or three anyway.

He manages a sleepy smile, then yawns, groans.

MANN

What a day.

He leans forward and turns on the radio, adjusting the volume so the music plays softly, then straightens up. A few moments pass. He begins to whistle under his breath, then stops abruptly, looking stunned, as he sees ahead:

TRUCK AND TRAILER - MANN'S POINT OF VIEW
pulling off the shoulder and onto the highway several hundred yards ahead.

INT. CAR - MANN
Mindless reflex driving his right foot down against the brake pedal. The car skids to a halt, Mann gaping toward the truck.

MANN'S THOUGHT
He waited for me.
(pause; aghast)

Waited.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER
pulling off the highway ahead and stopping.

CLOSE ON MANN
staring at the truck and trailer.

MANN
(stunned)
God help me, he is crazy.

A sudden horn blast behind makes him twist around, gasping.

ANGLE ON MANN
as he completes his turn to look back at the highway, reacting to what he sees.
POINT OF VIEW SHOT - STATION WAGON

bearing down on him at high speed. Suddenly, it veers off toward the opposite lane.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD STATION WAGON

Mann jerks around to watch it hurtle past his car, rear end snapping back and forth, back tires screeching. Camera draws around quickly to follow the movement of the station wagon. As it passes, we see the twisted features of the man inside, his lips moving rapidly as he curses Mann. Camera keeps moving, then stops as we see the station wagon swerving back into the proper lane, horn honking angrily. Mann is still in f.g., watching it. The station wagon passes the truck and moves off.

MANN'S THOUGHT

He can pass the truck.
(beat)
I'm the only one who can't.
(beat)
I The one who's being singled out.

Drawing in a shaking breath, he pulls his car onto the shoulder and stops again, turns off the motor.

MANN'S THOUGHT

Well, I won't play, Charlie.
(pause; bitterly)
We can sit here for a week.

CLOSE ON MANN

looking at the truck, anger starting to build in him again. He snaps off the radio, straightens up.

MANN

(muttering)
And still no police?
(pause; looking around)
What is this, the forgotten highway?

He winces, starts to rub his neck. After awhile, he stops and lowers his arm, stares at the truck.

MANN'S THOUGHT

Now what?

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER

parked on the shoulder ahead.
CONTINUED

MANN'S THOUGHT
If I get out and try to walk to him,
he'll only pull away and park a
little farther down the highway...he
doesn't want talk -- he wants torture.

CLOSE ON MANN

MANN'S THOUGHT
(with mounting
fury)
He isn't going to let it go.
(pause)
He's just not going to let it go.

On a sudden, angry impulse, he turns on the motor, snaps the
transmission into Drive and stamps down on the accelerator
pedal.

ANGLE ON REAR OF CAR

The tires spin sizzingly on the shoulder, shooting up dirt,
then the car jolts forward onto the highway, moving away
from camera toward the distant trunk and trailer.

CLOSE ON MANN

Face going rigid as he sees what the truck driver is doing.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER

Starting to pull off the shoulder.

CLOSE ON MANN

Enraged, he floors the pedal.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD HIGHWAY AHEAD

It is apparent that Mann cannot make it, that the truck will
block his way if he continues.

CLOSEUP - MANN

MANN'S THOUGHT
No!

He brakes, slows down, then turns in toward the shoulder again.
290 ANGLE FROM SHOULDER
Mann's car heading for camera, the windshield stopping in close f.g. Mann looks toward the truck with hatred.

291 POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER
Pulling off the highway onto the shoulder again; stopping.

292 ANGLE THROUGH WINDSHIELD
Mann's words unheard as he curses at the truck driver.

MANN
You maniac, you dirty ---

(X)

293 INT. CAR - CLOSE ON MANN
Voice trembling as he finishes his sentence.

MANN
I'd like to kill you.

His motor is still running, the transmission in neutral. He switches it off and draws in shaking breath, exhales it raggedly.

MANN'S THOUGHT
Now what?

(beat)
Turn around and head back east until I reach a cut-off that'll take me there by another route?

(beat)
How do I know he wouldn't follow me even then? He probably would.

His cheeks twitch as he bites his lips together.

MANN'S THOUGHT
No! I'm not going to turn around!
I'm not!

(pause; shakily)
Why is he doing this? Does he know who I am? Did I do something to him once without even knowing it?

(beat)
Why?!

He cannot remain inside the car; it feels like a trap to him. He yanks up the handle and pushes out the door.
EXT. CAR - ANGLE ON MANN

As he gets out, slams the door, paces to the rear of the car.

MANN'S THOUGHT
(angrily)
What's the difference, why? He's doing it, that's all that matters.

He turns and walks back toward the front, turns again, then whirls and starts to move toward the truck with long, vengeful strides, camera pulling ahead of him. O.s., the distant truck motor is turned on. Mann stops.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER

Parked on the shoulder, its motor running.

MANN

Watching it, eyes hooded, his expression one of murderous animosity. Abruptly, he starts to run toward it.

MOVING SHOT - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD HIGHWAY AHEAD

The truck and trailer start to pull back toward the highway. Mann runs faster. The truck and trailer pick up speed. Mann stops running and, after a few moments, the truck and trailer pull back onto the shoulder, stop.

CLOSE ON MANN

Staring at the truck, breathing hard. Camera moves in on his face, which reflects the malignance he feels toward the truck driver.

MANN'S THOUGHT
If I had a rifle....

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER

We hear a rifle shot, then the noise of the trailer gas tank exploding.

CLOSE ON MANN

After several moments, he turns and walks back toward his car, moving away from camera.
ANGLE PAST CAR - TOWARD MANN

Returning to the car and stopping beside it, wondering what to do. His eyes shift as he sees a car approaching.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - SEDAN

Approaching down the highway at a slow speed.

CLOSE ON MANN

Watching the car. Abruptly, he moves toward the highway.

ANGLE PAST MANN'S CAR - TOWARD HIGHWAY

Mann steps onto the paving and raises his arms to flag down the car. There is an elderly couple in the front seat, the man driving. The old man slows down and pulls over to the shoulder, braking his car about ten yards behind Mann's. Mann walks over to the driver's window, stops.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD ELDERLY COUPLE

OLD MAN

Car trouble?

MANN

In a way. I wonder if you'd do me a favor.

OLD MAN

(suspicious now)

What's that?

MANN

Would you stop at the first telephone booth you come to and call the police?

OLD MAN

(alarmed)

Police?

Mann gestures toward the truck with his head.

MANN

You see that truck?

The old man glances toward the truck, as does his wife.

CONTINUED
OLD LADY
(overlapping
on "that")
Mister, we don't want any trouble.

MANN.
You won't have any trouble. All
I'm asking you to do is ---

OLD LADY
(cutting in)
Jim, we'd better go.

Faintly, the sound of the truck motor reaches audibility.
Mann is too distraught to notice.

MANN
(voice rising)
Ma'am, all I'm asking you to do is
make a phone call.

OLD LADY
(tensely)
Jim.

MANN
My life's in danger. Can't you
even --- ?

OLD MAN
(breaking in)
I'm sorry, Mister.

MANN
(finishing)
-- make a phone call for me?

The old lady looks abruptly toward the truck and trailer.

OLD LADY
(shocked)
Jim!

Both Mann and the old man look, react.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER
Backing along the shoulder, heading for Mann's car.

ANGLE ON ELDERLY COUPLE'S CAR
The old man throws his transmission into Reverse and starts
to back up quickly. Mann jerks around.

CONTINUED
Wait!
The car is already out of his reach. He whirs back toward the truck and trailer.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER
Backing toward Mann's car with increasing speed. Camera with draws to include Mann looking toward it. He starts to back off.

MOVING SHOT - MANN
Backing off, breath erratic, terror engulfing him again.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER
Still coming at his car.

MANN
Turning suddenly to bolt toward the desert beside the highway, camera moving with him as he runs, his expression one of mindless dread. He has reached the bottom and is running like a frightened child. He stumbles, regains his feet and crashes on. Behind, o.s., the squealing brakes of the truck are heard. Mann pays no attention to them, keeps on fleeing. Only as the squeal of brakes gets louder and no crashing sound is heard, does he look back. Seeing what he does makes him slow down, stop.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - MANN'S CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER
The truck and trailer slowing down, almost stopped now.

ON MANN
as he turns, looks in the other direction.

DESERT - MANN'S POINT OF VIEW
An endless, bleak and searingly hot landscape.

ON MANN
as he turns back to face the highway.
ANGLE FROM ACROSS HIGHWAY - TOWARD MANN'S CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER

Mann in the desert, watching, as the trailer stops a few yards from the front of the car. The truck driver shifts into first gear and the truck starts moving forward again. Camera moves with the trailer as it is pulled about fifty yards down the highway and stopped again. Past the edge of the trailer, we can still see the figure of Mann standing, watching. The elderly couple speed by in their car. Several moments pass.

CLOSE SHOT - MANN

Face as hard as stone.

MANN'S THOUGHT

Enough.

MANN
(huskily)

Enough.

MANN'S THOUGHT
(pause)
You've pushed me all you're going to.

Drawing himself erect, he starts back toward his car, walking slowly, resolutely, camera drawing ahead of him.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT FIVE
ACT SIX

FADE IN

318 ANGLE PAST CAR - TOWARD MANN

Emerging from the desert, he walks around the front of the car. Camera draws around until we see the truck parked up ahead. Mann gets in his car, starts the motor and pulls onto the highway, camera following. The truck pulls out ahead of him.

319 INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

Mann taking a position about thirty yards behind the trailer.

320 REVERSE ANGLE - MANN

Looking at the truck ahead, expression unchanged. Moments pass. His expression alters slightly toward suspicious curiosity, as he sees what the truck driver is doing.

321 POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER

The driver has his left arm out the window, waving him on.

322 CLOSE ON MANN

Smiling with contempt.

MANN'S THOUGHT

Another car coming you want me to hit?

323 ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

After several moments, it seems apparent that there is no car coming in the opposite direction. As the highway curves to the left and Mann can see into the distance, it becomes a certainty. Mann grunts softly.

MANN'S THOUGHT

(still suspicious)

So what are you waving me on for?

(scornfully)

I know; you've repented. You regret our little misunderstanding. Let bygones be bygones.

(a hissing noise)

Sure.
REVERSE ANGLE - MANN

Smiling tightly as he realizes what the answer is.

MANN
I get it; it's no fun this way, is it?

MANN'S THOUGHT
It's only fun if I'm in front of you and you can take a crack at killing me.

MANN
Well, tough beans, Charlie. I'm staying where I am.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

The driver pulls in his arm and starts to slow down. The tension in Mann's voice belies his words.

MANN
Oh, you're slowing down? Okay. I'll slow down too.

He does so.

MANN
How's that? Slow enough?

After several moments, the truck starts slowing down more.

MANN
No? All right. I'll just slow down a little more then.

After awhile, the truck and trailer are steered toward the shoulder.

MANN
(with tight, false amiability)
Oh, you're going to stop? Okay. I'll stop too.

He pulls off the road and brakes, taps the transmission lever into Park position.

MANN
How's that, Charlie?
CLOSE ON MANN - TOWARD REAR OF CAR

His expression making it obvious that his deliberate raillery is hovering above a seething rage which may erupt at any moment. His smile is humorless. His eyes, as he regards the truck, are steely.

MANN'S THOUGHT
Two can play that game, you know.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

Moments passing. Abruptly, Mann retrieves a cigar from his suit coat pocket and lights it, blows out smoke.

ANGLE ON MANN - TOWARD REAR OF CAR

Smoking tensely.

MANN'S THOUGHT
'Is it going to be like this all day?'
(pause)
Obviously, he's not on any kind of schedule. Or, if he is, he's sure paying no attention to it.

He begins to look at the truck with an analytic eye.

MANN'S THOUGHT
Equally obviously, he wants me to pass him.
(a long pause)
What if I do?
(beat)
There have to be grades ahead with all those mountains. If I keep my speed at eighty-ninety miles an hour, he's got to fall behind.

His eyes narrow as he makes a final analysis of the situation and himself. Camera moves in slowly on his face.

MANN
The only question is ---

MANN'S THOUGHT
(continuing his thought)
Do I have the nerve to maintain that kind of speed over a long distance? I've never done it before. But then I've never gone through this before.

CONTINUED
CONTINUED

O.s., he taps his fingers quickly and incessantly on the steering wheel rim as he thinks it over. Camera stops when his face is in closeup. He stops tapping suddenly, face tightening as he decides.

MANN

Right.

ANGLE ON MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

He presses the cigar into the ashtray, then snaps the transmission lever to Drive position, guns the car along the shoulder, looking into the side-view mirror and pulls out onto the highway. Up ahead, the truck pulls out. Mann moves up behind it rapidly, eases out to see if any cars are coming in the opposite direction, then, seeing none, speeds into the other lane.

MOVING SHOT - CAR

Mann starting to pull along the side of the trailer. He keeps glancing at the truck, prepared to react if the driver tries to force him off the road. The trailer remains in place. Mann's car picks up speed and he starts to pass the truck.

INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

Mann remaining tense, prepared for anything, throwing constant glances toward the truck. When nothing happens, he floors the accelerator pedal and starts to pass the truck quickly.

MOVING SHOT - REAR OF MANN'S CAR

Camera retaining the speed of the truck, staying beside it as Mann's car draws away and is steered back into the proper lane. Immediately, the truck begins to pick up speed.

INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

He looks into the rear-view mirror, sees that the truck and trailer are going faster and smiles grimly.

MANN

I thought so.

His expression hardens as he presses down on the accelerator pedal.
CONTINUED

MANN'S THOUGHT
All right, Charlie. Let's see you beat me now.

MANN
Here we go.

MOVING SHOT - ON REAR OF CAR
As it roars away from camera, moving into the distance. After a while the truck catches up to and begins to pass the camera.

HELIICOPTER SHOT - CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER
Moving rapidly along the two-lane highway.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER
His face masklike with determination as he drives. He glances into the rear view mirror, reaction showing in his eyes. He presses down further on the accelerator pedal, looks at the speedometer and swallows, unnerved despite his resolution.

INSERT - SPEEDOMETER
He is going 87 miles an hour.

ANGLE PAST BUSH - TOWARD CAR
The bush, shaking a little as the car shoots by, camera whip panning to follow its movement down the highway. O.s. the roaring motor of the truck is heard approaching. It speeds past camera and the bush shakes violently.

INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER
His expression beginning to lose its adamantine set as uneasiness about the speed he's traveling starts to work on him.

ANGLE PAST BEIGE SEDAN
Parked on the shoulder under a tree. A young couple inside are talking earnestly. Mann's car goes roaring past and the couple looks toward it startledly.

INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER
He glances at the rear-view mirror angrily. Behind, the truck speeds past the parked sedan.

CONTINUED
341 CONTINUED

MANN'S THOUGHT

Call the police! Please!

He looks at the speedometer, reacts.

342 INSERT - SPEEDOMETER

Registering 91 miles an hour.

343 HELICOPTER SHOT - CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER

Speeding along the two-lane highway. Camera draws around to show an overpass ahead.

344 MOVING SHOT - ANGLE OVER HOOD - TOWARD MANN

He twitches as the shadow of the overpass whips across the hood and windshield.

345 INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

He glances at the rear-view mirror. Clenching his teeth, he looks intently at the lane ahead.

MANN'S THOUGHT

There has to be some kind of town ahead. The freeway passes them, but not a highway as old as this.

Imagining, he starts to slow down unconsciously.

OFFICER'S VOICE

Glad you called us, Mr. Mann, and don't you worry, we'll get him. We've been after him for some time now. You're not the first one who's complained.

(voice starts fading)

He's really going to get it this time.

The sound of the motor drowns away the thought voice. Mann shakes himself and glances at the rear-view mirror again, reacting as he sees that the truck is closer. His gaze darts to the speedometer and he reacts again, this time with fury at himself, jarring down on the accelerator pedal.

MANN

Don't slow down!

CONTINUED
CONTINUED

MANN'S THOUGHT
(tightly)
You've got a murderer behind you!

He reacts, seeing something ahead.

INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD HIGHWAY AHEAD

A billboard reads: SLOW DOWN! WE DON'T LIKE TO GET OUR CUSTOMERS THAT WAY! JENSEN'S MORTUARY.

CLOSE ON MANN

Reacting to sign. We hear the sound of organ music, then a man's sepulchral voice.

MAN'S VOICE
David Mann was taken from us far too soon.

Mann forces away the ugly imagination.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD HIGHWAY AHEAD

The hills and mountains nearer now.

MANN'S THOUGHT
Almost to the hills now. Hang on.

HELCIOPTER SHOT - CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER

The car rocketing toward the mountains.

MOVING SHOT - CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER

Camera pulling straight ahead of Mann's car as it speeds along. In the b.g., the truck and trailer follow.

INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD HIGHWAY AHEAD

He starts, gasping, as a tumbleweed rolls across the highway. He almost loses control of the car, then manages to regain it, jerking his left hand down to the steering wheel.

MANN'S THOUGHT
Don't lose your nerve.
CLOSE ON MANN
Face hardening.

MANN'S THOUGHT
That's what he wants! -- For you to kill yourself!

He shakes his head.

MANN
(gutterally)
No way.

HELI OPTER SHOT - CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER
Speeding along the highway.

INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD HIGHWAY AHEAD
The route ahead not straight now; starting to wind up toward the foothills.

MANN'S THOUGHT
Almost there.

Camera draws around him so the broad terrain to his left is visible, hills blending into mountains. Moving along a distant road toward the highway is a dark sedan. Mann glances toward it; tightens.

MANN'S THOUGHT
(startledly)
Is that a police car?

He looks ahead, then glances at the car again. Impulsively, he jams the heel of his right hand down against the horn bar, holding it in. The blast of his horn is shrill and racking.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER
He keeps glancing toward the car and holding the horn bar in. Suddenly, he lets up on the bar.

POINT OF VIEW - CAR
Camera moving in on it to show that it is just a black sedan with white lettering on its side.
357 ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK

MANN

Damn!

He glances into the rear-view mirror, chuckling.

MANN'S VOICE
I can just hear that Cretin — (mimicing)
'You think you're gonna' get a cop to save you, boy? No siree, boy, you're gonna' die!'

MANN'S THOUGHT
No, not me, you miserable ape. You! You're going to die.

MANN
(finishing the thought aloud)
You hear me?

He fights for control. Looking ahead, he regains a measure of satisfaction.

358 POINT OF VIEW SHOT - HILLS AHEAD

Closer now, a long grade in the distance.

MANN'S THOUGHT
There it is.

359 ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK

MANN'S THOUGHT
No matter how he tries, he can't beat my speed on a grade like that. (beat)
But I can!

His smile is one of fierce elation. Camera moves in on his face.

MANN'S THOUGHT
Fill that bathtub to the top, man.
A drink in one hand, a cigar in the other -- and re-lax.
His eyes refocus on the highway ahead and he reacts to what he sees.

Both lanes blocked. There is a ROAD REPAIRS sign and a huge black arrow pointing toward the alternate route — a gravel road angling to the right.

Starting to pump at the brake pedal. Camera moves up quickly to his face as he throws a look at the rear-view mirror.

The truck gaining on him.

His expression freezing as he starts to steer onto the side road.

Mann's car shooting by and onto the gravel road. Camera whip pans to follow its movement as it starts along the rutted surface, its rear end breaking toward the left, then straightening out.

as it jars along the road, tires battering at the ruts, flying gravel pounding at the under-frame.

Elbows braced against his sides, trying to keep the steering wheel in position. The windows rattle noisily. His neck snaps back and forth with painful jerks. His jolting body surges against the binding of the safety harness, slams back and down against the seat. His clenching teeth slip suddenly and he cries out as his upper teeth gouge into his lower lip. His face contorts as the right end of the car begins surging to the right. He starts to jerk the steering wheel to the left, then reacts as he realizes that he should be doing just the opposite.
CONTINUED

MANN'S THOUGHT

To the right!

He wrenches at the wheel.

MOVING SHOT - CAR

Camera pulling ahead of the car as its right rear fender cracks into a fence post, knocking it down.

INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD ROAD

He pumps at the brakes, struggling to regain control. The car rear starts sliding to the left.

MOVING SHOT - CAR

Its back end yawing sharply to the left, shooting out a spray of gravel.

INT. CAR - CLOSE ON MANN

He wrenches at the steering wheel and the car begins to slip toward the right again.

MOVING SHOT - CAR

careening from side to side of the road, its left rear fender knocking down a fence post before Mann finally gets it back on course.

INT. CAR - MANN

He coughs abruptly as he gags on dripping blood in his throat.

ANGLE ON HIGHWAY

Mann's car regains the highway and picks up momentum, roaring off. O.s., we hear the motor of the pursuing truck.

INT. CAR - CLOSE ON MANN

daring to look at the rear-view mirror again.
POINT OF VIEW SHOT - REAR-VIEW MIRROR
The truck negotiating the road, rocking like a freighter on a storm-tossed sea, huge tires scouring up gravel.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER
He shoves in the accelerator pedal.

MANN'S THOUGHT
Now.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - HIGHWAY AHEAD
A steep grade about a hundred yards ahead.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK
He glances at the rear-view mirror, swallowing some blood and coughing as he sees the truck and trailer back on the highway. He picks up the handkerchief and presses it to his bleeding lip, eyes fixed anxiously on the slope ahead.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD SLOPE
The car is almost to it.

MANN'S THOUGHT
Now!

UP ANGLE ON SLOPE
as Mann's car shoots into frame and up the grade, moving away from camera very fast. O.s., we hear the motor of the approaching truck; then it roars into frame and starts up the grade.

HELIICOPTER SHOT - CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER
The car increasing the distance between it and the truck and trailer as they climb the grade.

MOVING SHOT - ANGLE ON WINDSHIELD OF CAR - MANN
Looking into the rear-view mirror and making an exultant (unheard) sound, his expression one of angry triumph. Camera holds, then slowly, starts to pull back until the entire hood of the car is in f.g. Camera stops and holds. After several moments, steam begins to issue from beneath the hood. Camera zooms in on Mann's face.
INT. CAR - CLOSE ON MANN
staring at the hood with shock-widened eyes.

MANN
(weakly)
No.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - HOOD
The steam increasing.

CLOSE ON MANN
Gaze jerking to the dashboard.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - DASHBOARD
The small square on the dashboard still darkened.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER
He looks up the slope.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - SLOPE
Long and gradual with many curves.

ANGLE ON MANN
A dazed look on his face.

MANN'S THOUGHT
I'll never make it.

MANN
(as it hits him)
Oh, my god ---

Camera zooms in on his face until it fills the screen.

MANN'S THOUGHT
(whispering)
I'm going to die!

MOVING SHOT - CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER
The car in f.g., steam increasing, now a smoking mist. In
the distant b.g., the truck keeps coming.
391 INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER
His face set in a look of dread.

392 POINT OF VIEW SHOT - HOOD
The steam increasing.

393 CLOSE ON MANN'S EYES
as the memory tortures him.

ATTENDANT'S VOICE
Looks like you could use a new radiator hose.

He gasps, gaze shifting to the dashboard.

394 POINT OF VIEW SHOT - DASHBOARD
Camera zooms in on the square, now red, the word "HOT" printed on it in black letters.

395 HELICOPTER SHOT - CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER
The car moving slower, steam coming from beneath the hood. The truck-and-trailer starts to gain on it.

396 INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER
Jerking at the transmission lever suddenly.

MANN'S THOUGHT
Put it in low!

He glances at the rear-view mirror, reacting as he sees the truck getting closer. He looks at the highway ahead, forced to shift around to see clearly.

397 REVERSE ANGLE - TOWARD HOOD
Steam obscuring the view.

398 ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER
Camera moves in on his face as he begins to hear the o.s. throb of boiling water in the radiator.
399 HELICOPTER SHOT - CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER

The distance between them narrowing.

400 MOVING SHOT - CAR

Camera pulling close ahead of it, the thumping of the radiator water getting louder.

401 INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD HOOD

The steam is starting to haze up the windshield. Reaching out, Mann twists a dashboard knob and the wipers start flicking back and forth in rapid, fan-shaped sweeps.

402 REVERSE ANGLE - PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK

Camera moves in quickly on his face as the car begins to lurch and shudder.

MANN
(half horrified,
half angry)

No!

403 MOVING SHOT - ANGLE PAST CAR

as it labors up the grade, losing speed. In b.g., the truck gets closer.

404 INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

Mann stares at the slope ahead with haunted eyes. Yard by yard, the car is slowing down.

MANN'S THOUGHT
(pleading)
Make it.

MANN
(sotto voce;
pleading)
Make it. Make it.

405 HELICOPTER SHOT - CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER

The car running more and more unevenly.
INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

The thumping percolation of the radiator water very loud now. He stares at the slope ahead.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - SLOPE

The car almost to the top. Steam obscures the view.

BACK TO MANN

glancing at the rear-view mirror. Seeing that the truck is closer yet, he presses down on the accelerator pedal and the motor makes a grinding noise. Mann groans.

MANN'S THOUGHT

Don't!

REVERSE ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD HOOD

Steam gushing from beneath the hood. The ridge ahead can just be made out.

MANN

Make it, make it.

(beat)

Please, God, make it.

ANGLE FROM RIDGE

at the approaching car, the truck and trailer behind it in the distance. The car is shuddering and clanking, slowing down. It gets closer, closer. Finally, it reaches f.g.

INT. CAR - ANGLE ON MANN - TOWARD REAR OF CAR

As it moves across the ridge and starts descending. Mann shoves the transmission into neutral and lets the car go into a glide, switches off the motor. His look of triumph fades as he sees what lies ahead.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - VIEW AHEAD

The steam decreasing rapidly with the motor turned off. There is nothing in sight but hills and more hills. The car rolls by a sign which reads: "TRUCKS USE LOW GEARS NEXT 12 MILES."
ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD REAR OF CAR

He looks into the rear-view mirror, a little encouraged by the fact that the truck has not appeared yet. He looks at the speedometer.

POIN'T OF VIEW SHOT - SPEEDOMETER

The car picking up speed slowly: 48, 49, 50 miles per hour.

MANN

Come on, come on.

MOVING SHOT - CAR

picking up speed as it rolls down the grade.

INT. CAR - CLOSE ON SPEEDOMETER

52, 53, 54, 55 miles per hour. Camera up pans to Mann as he glances at the rear-view mirror. Still no sign of the truck. He swallows dryly, rubbing at his neck.

MANN

Come on, faster.

Several moments later, he looks up at the rear-view mirror again, reacting as he sees the truck.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD REAR OF CAR

Camera zooms in on the top of the ridge, holding as the truck comes over like some leviathan surfacing from a grey sea.

MOVING SHOT - ANGLE ON CAR

Camera pulling ahead and slightly to the left of it. After awhile, moving camera pans enough to the right to retain the car in shot as well as show the truck in the distance, picking up speed as it begins descending the grade.

INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

Mann looking at the rear-view mirror; down at the grade again, breath quickening.
HELI OPTER SHOT - CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER
The truck beginning to close the distance between them.

INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER
Mann glances at the rear-view mirror again, tightens. He
hesitates, then reaches for the ignition key, pulling back
his hand with a worried sound. He looks at the rear-view
mirror, then at the speedometer.

MANN
Come on!
Camera pans quickly to the speedometer. The car is barely
up to 60 miles an hour.

HELI OPTER SHOT - CAR
at the far left side of the screen, rolling down the grade.
After awhile, the front edge of the truck begins to ease
into frame on the far right of the screen.

INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER
making a panicky sound as he looks into the rear-view mirror
to see the truck gaining. His gaze drops quickly and he re-
acts as he notices something ahead.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - HIGHWAY AHEAD
A sedan speeding up the grade in the other lane.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD OPPOSITE LANE
He twists his head to the side as the other car speeds past.
The sight maddens him. He looks at the grade ahead, camera
drawing around until it is in front of him and we can see
the truck and trailer in b.g., closer yet. Mann reacts at
what he sees ahead.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - GRADE
Leveling off ahead for a hundred yards or so.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER
Reaching out, he twists the ignition key. The motor makes
a grinding noise but doesn't start. Mann looks stunned.
CONTINUED

He turns the key again and again with the same result. He looks ahead, crushed by total panic now.

HELIICOPTER SHOT - CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER

Camera pulling straight ahead, angled down at them. The car slows down on the level area, then starts down another slope, the truck closing the gap between them more.

INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

The truck close behind, the high-pitched wailing of its motor becoming audible to him. Camera moves in slowly on his face; that of a man who knows he is about to die. Moments pass. Then, suddenly, his eyes shift as he catches sight of something ahead.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - GRADE AHEAD

Camera zooms in on an escape route for trucks.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

Mann deliberates; decides.

ANGLE FROM ESCAPE ROUTE - TOWARD CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER

approaching camera, coming closer and closer. Just before the car reaches the escape route, camera zooms in on it.

INT. CAR - CLOSE ON MANN

wrenching the steering wheel around. Immediately, the car rear starts breaking to the left, tires shrieking on the pavement. Mann steers with the skid, braking just enough to keep from losing all control.

MOVING SHOT - CAR

As it shoots onto the steep dirt trail at sixty miles an hour, tires slinging up a cloud of dust.

INT. CAR - ANGLE ON MANN - TOWARD DIRT BANK ON RIGHT OF CAR

He brakes and struggles with the steering wheel, teeth clenched.
MOVING SHOT - REAR OF CAR

The wheels sideslip and the car slams against the dirt bank, bounces off and starts to fishtail with violent, whipping motions, angling toward the trail edge on the left.

INT. CAR - ANGLE ON MANN - TOWARD DIRT BANK

Braking as hard as he can. The car rear skids to the right and slams against the bank again.

ANGLE ON CAR

as Mann brakes it to a halt on the steep incline.

INT. CAR - ANGLE ON MANN - TOWARD FRONT OF CAR

His body surging against the harness, then being pulled back, throwing the transmission lever to park position, he turns toward the highway, reacts.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - THROUGH REAR WINDOW

The truck and trailer swerving off the highway, heading for the escape route.

ANGLE ON MANN

looking through the rear window. Paralyzed by shock, he seems to watch the approaching truck with almost detachment.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - THROUGH REAR WINDOW

Camera moves toward the massive truck coming at the car.

CLOSE ON MANN

as he waits to die.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - THROUGH REAR WINDOW

Camera moving toward the truck, a continuation of Shot #442. The gargantuan shape comes closer.
CLOSE ON MANN

A last, wild thought occurring to him. Jerking around, he
puts the transmission into neutral and the car begins to
roll backward down the steep incline. Looking into the rear-
view mirror to help his steering, he twists the ignition key
repeatedly. The motor will not start, but the car keeps
picking up speed. Suddenly, the motor catches. He throws
the transmission into reverse and jams down on the accelerator
pedal.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - REAR VIEW MIRROR

The truck and trailer rushing up the incline toward Mann's
car.

ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

Closing in rapidly on the car. From the look on Mann's face,
it seems as though he is about to sacrifice his life in
order to ram the truck. Then, with a shaking hand, he begins
to unfasten the safety harness.

MOVING SHOT - ANGLE PAST CAR - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

as they near each other, the truck driver beginning to brake
as he sees what Mann intends to do.

INT. CAR - ANGLE PAST MANN - TOWARD TRUCK AND TRAILER

When the two vehicles are so close that collision is in-
evitable, Mann shoves open the door and bails out.

CLOSE ON MANN

as he rolls and bounces toward the edge of the trail, grab-
bining a bush to keep from going over. Scrambling around
dizzily, he looks toward the truck and trailer.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER

about to collide.

FULL SHOT - CAR AND TRUCK AND TRAILER

The film going into slow motion. The gas tank of Mann's car
explodes as his car smashes into the front of the truck.
Flames obscure the driver's view and the truck begins to
veer toward the edge, pushing Mann's car ahead of it.
CLOSE ON MANN

Film still in slow motion as he watches.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER AND CAR

Film still in slow motion. Reaching the trail edge, the truck begins to tilt, tipping over like some ponderous beast, shoving Mann's car off the trail.

MANN

watching, film still in slow motion.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER

Film still in slow motion. Its monstrous bulk begins to overturn.

CLOSE ON MANN

Film still in slow motion as he stares at the toppling truck.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER

Film still in slow motion as the tilting truck goes over the edge, pulling the trailer with it.

CLOSE ON MANN

The film returning to normal speed. O.s., we hear the horrendous noise of the truck going down the slope. He turns to watch it.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - TRUCK AND TRAILER

sliding, capsized, down the hill toward a canyon below, huge wheels spinning free. Mann's car, in flames, has already hit the canyon floor.

UP ANGLE ON MANN

The first explosion takes place below frame, the violence of its detonation causing Mann to roll clumsily onto the trail. A second explosion roars below frame, its hot wave buffeting across him. His glazed eyes start to look upward.
POINT OF VIEW SHOT - COLUMN OF FIRE
Shooting toward the sky, followed by another.

ANGLE FROM TRAIL EDGE
Mann crawls slowly to the edge and peers down at the canyon.

POINT OF VIEW SHOT - CANYON
Enormous gusts of flame towering upward from it, topped by thick black, oily smoke. The truck and trailer cannot be seen.

ANGLE ON MANN
as he looks down at the burning truck and trailer, all feeling drained from him. Camera moves in slowly on his face as emotion manifests itself; not dread, not regret, not sickened withdrawal. As his face fills the screen, we see, instead, an expression of primeval victory clutching at his features -- the look of some ancestral brute regarding the body of his vanquished foe. And from deep in his throat comes a recidivistic blood cry. It is on this look and this sound that the picture freezes and the camera holds. Final titles move across the screen.

FADE OUT

THE END