

EVEN THIS

by

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INT. BARBRA'S HOME - MIDDAY

Opening front door...

BARBRA
Can I help you?

MAN
I'm here to deliver this letter.
You have thirty days left or your
home will be taken over by the
State.

Man walks away.

Barbra steps out on the front porch and opens the envelope.
As she reads, she takes a seat.

EDDIE enters.

EDDIE
Mom, who was that man?

BARBRA
Huh? Oh, he, he gave me this
letter here (reading)...we have
thirty days to pay or we're going
to lose the house. It's a final
warning..

EDDIE
How much do we owe?

BARBRA
...Ten thousand..

EDDIE
What are we gonna do?

BARBRA
That bastard. One year more and
it would have been ours...this
land...everything on it.

EDDIE
You need to call him.

BARBRA
I wish him dead.

EDDIE
He has the money Mom, you know he
does.

BARBRA

Oh, I know it...he's out there living the high life, leaving you me and your sister out here in the gutter...he couldn't just give us this...even this.

EDDIE

Call him or better yet let's go visit him now.

BARBRA

He lives two hours north from here. What are we supposed to do, walk?

EDDIE

If that's what we must do.

BARBRA

I've called him fifty times.

EDDIE

You have? When?

BARBRA

I've tried him morning, noon and night. Doesn't matter what time of day.

EDDIE

We can't let him get away with this!

BARBRA

What am I supposed to do, jump on his back? I've called him enough times to make my fingers bleed.

EDDIE

What about Uncle Tobey? He could take us.

BARBRA

Your Uncle Tobey is a waste of a drunk, never did a damn bit for anybody, least of all me or you kids. Besides, even if he did take us without sliding off the road, he'd blow your father's brains out his skull with that shotgun of his.

EDDIE

You're an exaggerator.

BARBRA

You think so, do ya? I've seen your Uncle do worse with both my eyes. He's a wild fool and good for nothing. Don't ask me again.

EDDIE

Well, what the hell are we gonna do? We need to save the house.

BARBRA

Don't you think I've been looking into everything.

EDDIE

What about borrowing the money and we work it off? I'll help Mom, I can give you all my money.

BARBRA

What money?

EDDIE

I have two hundred dollars saved.

BARBRA

Where'd you go and get two hundred dollars from?

EDDIE

I've been working.

BARBRA

You're telling me you saved two hundred dollars working at the candy store?

EDDIE

Yeah, Rosie likes me. She looks out for me. She pays me more than the other boys.

BARBRA

Really? Well good ole Rosie better take it easy before I bop her one over the head. Old hag she is! Make sure she keeps her paws off of you.

EDDIE

She's a nice old lady.

BARBRA

Don't be fooled, son.

EDDIE
Well, the two hundred is yours.
Who could we borrow from?

BARBRA
Golly if I know.

(pause.)

EDDIE
What about Mr. Hank?

BARBRA
Hank? Boy, what's gotten into
your little head?

EDDIE
I know he's soft on you. He's
always coming over here, asking if
we need anything and that one time
he gave me that baseball glove.
Come on, he's got money too, I've
seen his car.

BARBRA
Boy, that Mr. Hank is a Mr.
Slimeball. He ain't rich,
nothing.

EDDIE
What you talking about Mom, I've
seen his house?

BARBRA
That house has been in his family
for centuries. It's about to fall
over to one side.

EDDIE
Let's ask him for money before it
does.

BARBRA
I said no! Hank is a gambling
man. One day he's rich, the next
day he's poor. He's all over the
damn place.

EDDIE
Borrow money on his rich day, Mom.

BARBRA
You think you're cute...you are
though. I love you, boy.

She hugs her son.

EDDIE

I love you too, Mom. (beat) Let's talk to him, it's the only chance we have.

BARBRA

That's a shot in the dark, that is...

EDDIE

Any other ideas?

BARBRA

I don't know what to expect, what the outcome will be...

EDDIE

If we get some money, it can buy us time, I'm sure we can figure something out together Mom, I promise. Please, I don't want to lose the house. I'll get another job and quit school.

BARBRA

You ain't quitting nothing!

EDDIE

I can work until we pay things off!

BARBRA

I can't talk about this anymore.

EDDIE

Mom, I'll do anything for you.

BARBRA

I know honey. Everything is gonna be fine.