

JACK (V.O.)  
 If you asked me now, I couldn't tell  
 you why I called him.

Jack re-deposits the quarter, dials Tyler's number. It  
 RINGS... and RINGS and RINGS. Jack sighs and hangs up the  
 phone. A moment, then the phone RINGS.

JACK  
 Hello?

TYLER'S VOICE  
 Who's this?

JACK  
 Tyler?

TYLER'S VOICE  
 Who's this?

JACK  
 Uh... I'm sorry. We met on the  
 plane. We had the same briefcase.  
 I'm... you know, the clever guy.

TYLER'S VOICE  
 Oh, yeah.

JACK  
 I just called a second ago. There  
 was no answer. I'm at a payphone.

TYLER'S VOICE  
 I star-sixty-nined you. I never pick  
 up my phone. What's up?

JACK  
 Well... let me see... here's the  
 thing...

EXT. LOU'S TAVERN - NIGHT

A small building in the middle of a concrete parking lot.

INT. LOU'S TAVERN - SAME

Jack and Tyler sit in the back, with a pitcher of BEER.

JACK  
 You buy furniture. You tell  
 yourself: this is the last sofa I'll  
 ever need. No matter what else  
 happens, I've got the sofa issue  
 handled. Then, the right set of  
 dishes. The right dinette.

(CONTINUED)

TYLER

This is how we fill up our lives.

Tyler lights a cigarette.

JACK

I guess so.

TYLER

And, now it's gone.

JACK

All gone.

Tyler offers cigarettes. Jack declines.

TYLER

Could be worse. A woman could cut off your penis while you're asleep and toss it out the window of a moving car.

JACK

There's always that.

TYLER

I don't know, maybe I'm wrong. Maybe it's a terrible tragedy.

JACK

...no ...no ...

TYLER

I mean, you did lose a lot of nice, neat little shit. The trendy paper lamps, the Euro-trash shelving unit, am I right?

Jack laughs, nods. He shakes his head, drinks.

TYLER

But maybe, just maybe, you've been delivered.

JACK

(toasts)

Delivered from Swedish furniture.

TYLER

Delivered from armchairs in obscure green stripe patterns.

JACK

Delivered from Martha Stewart.

(CONTINUED)

TYLER  
Delivered from bullshit colors like  
"Cobalt," "Ebony," and "Fuchsia."

They laugh together. Then, silence. They drink.

JACK  
Insurance'll cover it.

TYLER  
Oh, yeah, you gotta start making the  
list.

JACK  
What list?

TYLER  
The "now I get to go out and buy the  
exact same stuff all over again"  
list. That list.

JACK  
I don't... think so.

TYLER  
This time maybe get a widescreen TV.  
You'll be occupied for weeks.

JACK  
Well, I have to file a claim...

TYLER  
The things you own, they end up  
owning you.

JACK  
Don't I?

TYLER  
Do what you like.

JACK  
(looks at watch)  
God, it's late. I should find a  
hotel...

TYLER  
A hotel?

JACK  
Yeah.

TYLER  
So, you called me up, because you  
just wanted to have a drink before  
you... go find a hotel?

(CONTINUED)

JACK  
I don't follow...

TYLER  
We're on our third pitcher of beer.  
Just ask me.

JACK  
Huh?

TYLER  
You called me so you could have a  
place to stay.

JACK  
No, I...

TYLER  
Why don't you cut the shit and ask if  
you can stay at my place?

JACK  
Would that be a problem?

TYLER  
Is it a problem for you to ask?

JACK  
Can I stay at your place?

TYLER  
Yes, you can.

JACK  
Thank you.

TYLER  
You're welcome. But, I want you to  
do me one favor.

JACK  
What's that?

TYLER  
I want you to hit me as hard as you  
can.

JACK  
What?

TYLER  
I want you to hit me as hard as you  
can.

Freeze picture.

(CONTINUED)