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SOLD AS IS

Dialogues / Drama / 3-4 min
Cast 2 Male x2

Cal spent four years of Sundays taking care of their father in the house they grew up in. Robbie stayed away. Now the house has sold, and Robbie has driven them both to the curb outside it with an envelope he has not opened yet.

CHARACTERS

CAL - 44, the older brother, steady, tired, does not raise his voice until he does

ROBBIE - 36, the younger brother, restless, quick to leave a room, trying not to this time

SETTING

A pickup truck parked at night on a residential street, outside a one-story house with a SOLD sticker across the sign.

*A pickup truck parked at the curb in front of a small one-story house. A for-sale sign in the yard with a SOLD sticker slapped across it.
Night. Engine off.*

CAL, 44, in the driver's seat. ROBBIE, 36, in the passenger seat, holding a manila envelope.

CAL

Just say it.

ROBBIE

I'm gonna say it.

CAL

You've had the whole drive.

ROBBIE

I'm working up to it.

CAL

Rob, we're parked outside the house. You didn't want to go to the bar. You didn't want to go to my place. You said, let's just drive, and then you drove here. So either you're gonna tell me or I'm gonna guess, and

you're not gonna like my guess.

ROBBIE

What's your guess.

CAL

You're sick.

ROBBIE

I'm not sick.

CAL

Okay. Thank God. Okay. Then what.

*Robbie hands him the envelope. Cal opens it.
Reads. Reads it again.*

CAL

This is a closing statement.

ROBBIE

Yeah.

CAL

This is Mom and Dad's address.

ROBBIE

Yeah.

CAL

Your name's on it.

ROBBIE

Cal...

CAL

Your name is on it, Robbie.

ROBBIE

I closed Tuesday.

CAL

Tuesday. It's Saturday.

ROBBIE

I know what day it is.

CAL

We sat in that lawyer's office, both of us, and we signed the thing. Sell it, split it, done. That was the deal. You said, and I'm quoting you, I can't be in that house another minute.

ROBBIE

I know what I said.

CAL

So what, you got a discount? You had the inside track? You bought Dad's house from yourself?

ROBBIE

The estate sold it to the highest offer. That's how it works. I put in the highest offer.

CAL

With what money?

ROBBIE

That's not really...

CAL

With what money, Rob.

ROBBIE

My half. Plus the loan. It's a lot of loan.

Cal gets out of the truck. Stands in the street. Looks at the house. Robbie gets out the other side. They talk across the hood.

CAL

You couldn't sit with him one weekend a month. I asked you. One weekend. I did four years of Sundays in that kitchen and you couldn't do one.

ROBBIE

I know.

CAL

And now you want the kitchen.

ROBBIE

I don't want the kitchen. I don't know what I want. I saw the listing go live and I saw the pictures. They staged it, Cal. There was a bowl of lemons on the counter. And I just... I couldn't let some stranger have the lemons.

CAL

That's not a reason.

ROBBIE

No. It's not.

CAL

Why didn't you tell me.

ROBBIE

Because you'd have talked me out of it. And I didn't want to be talked out of it. I wanted one thing in my life I didn't run from.

Cal doesn't answer. He walks around the front of the truck. Looks at the SOLD sticker.

CAL

The other offer.

ROBBIE

What?

CAL

Your agent tell you about the other offer? The one you beat?

ROBBIE

She said there was one. Cash. Came in low.

CAL

Came in low because that's what I had.

Robbie stares at him.

ROBBIE

No.

CAL

Denise and I emptied the retirement. She thinks I'm crazy. I told her, it's the house, I'll fix the roof myself, we'll rent it, I don't know. I didn't have a plan either.

ROBBIE

You didn't tell me.

CAL

You'd have talked me out of it.

Beat. Something almost like a laugh from one of them. It's not clear which.

ROBBIE

So we both...

CAL

Yeah.

ROBBIE

Like two idiots.

CAL

Two idiots and one bowl of lemons.

Robbie takes a key ring out of his jacket. Holds it out across the hood.

ROBBIE

Roof's still bad.

CAL

I know the roof's bad. I've been on the roof.

ROBBIE

So come be on the roof.

Cal doesn't take the keys. He looks at the house.

CAL

Keep it. It's yours. You won it.

ROBBIE

Cal.

CAL

But you're gonna call me before you touch anything. The kitchen especially. You call me first.

ROBBIE

Every time.

CAL

Every time.

He gets back in the truck. After a moment, Robbie gets in too. Neither of them starts the engine.

END OF SCRIPT