

Four Men and a Burial

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FADE IN

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

People are gathered by a headstone. A coffin rests in the freshly dug ground. FOUR MEN, middle aged, stand by the hole, looking down.

From left to right, REMBER, TUCK, HILLBY, DEESE.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. MAMA'S KITCHEN - DAY

Rember sits at the table. GAYLA, his mother, cooks by the sink.

REMBER
Remember when he used ta sing?

GAYLA
He used ta do alotta things.

REMBER
Like back when he would sing to us.

GAYLA
Yes, I remember.

REMBER
(reminiscing)
He had the purtiest voice.

GAYLA
Used ta sing in the church choir.

REMBER
You never told me that.

GAYLA
There's a lot ya'll don't know. Do you wish you knew more about him?

REMBER
Part of me does. Most of me don't care.

GAYLA
Can't say I blame you boys. We've all been through a lot.

(CONTINUED)

REMBER

But you don't think of what was
until it's times like these.

GAYLA

I'll tell ya anythin' you wanna
know, Rember.

Rember pauses.

REMBER

Naw, I don't wanna know. I just
like rememberin' the good times.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A MAN towers over a small boy. He takes a pull from a liquor
bottle. His hand reaches back and begins to come toward the
boy--

END FLASHBACK

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

Rember tosses a handful of dirt onto the coffin. Tuck stares
down into the hole.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. GARAGE - DAY

The man works under the hood of a car. Tuck looks on. The
man sings along to the song playing from the radio. He
methodically works his way around the parts of the car as
Tuck watches carefully.

The man rests for a moment. He drinks from a clear bottle
then continues working.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

Tuck grabs a handful of dirt and tosses it onto the coffin.
Hilby stares down into the hole.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. WOODS - MORNING

Hillby and the man wait behind a thicket. Hillby scans the forest for wildlife. The man lays his gun down and drinks from a bottle. He perches himself back onto the log. Hillby disapprovingly acknowledges the drink.

They wait a few moments, then the man pulls his trigger. They get up from behind the log and make their way to the clearing.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

Hillby scatters some dirt over the coffin. Deese studies the grave.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - DAY

Deese drives down an old road. The man lays in the passenger seat, passed out. A bottle rests on the floorboard beneath him. Deese looks at the bottle then back at the man. He keeps driving.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

Deese slowly sprinkles the dirt into the grave.

INT. MAMA'S KITCHEN - DAY

The men sit at the table silently. Gayla sits at the head of the table.

As we get close on Rember--

JUMP CUT TO A HAND CLOSING IN ON HIS FACE AS A YOUNG BOY

As we get close on Tuck--

JUMP CUT TO THE MAN SCREAMING

As we get close on Hillsby--

JUMP CUT TO THE MAN THROWING HIS BOTTLE AGAINST THE WALL

As we get close on Deese--

JUMP CUT TO DEESE DRAGGING HIM OUT OF THE TRUCK

GAYLA
I'm sorry, boys.

DEESE
You got nothin' to be sorry for,
Mama.

GAYLA
I wanted better for all of you. I
just didn't know what to do.

TUCK
It's over now.

HILLSBY
There's things I miss, though.

TUCK
Like what?

HILLSBY
Just certain things.

TUCK
I'll never miss a damn thing. We're
all better off now.

DEESE
Nobody's free of fault, Tuck.

TUCK
You can't defend a man like that.
Like what he was.

REMBER
He had a beautiful voice.

Gayla begins to cry.

TUCK
He can burn for all I care.

Tuck leaves the table. Deese kisses Gayla on the forehead
and leaves.

(CONTINUED)

HILLSBY
(to Rember)
You remember when he used ta sing?

REMBER
I remember.

Hillsby gets up and leaves.

Rember and Gayla sit in silence.

REMBER
If you need anything, I'm right
down the road.

Gayla clasps her hand over Rember's as she cries. Rember holds on, then leaves.

Gayla weeps alone at the table.

FADE OUT