



[Projection: The Oregon Coast. Hwy 101]

SCENE THREE: HOME IS THE ROAD

[Chris, now going by the name of Alexander Supertramp, sticks his thumb out, trying to hitch a ride. JAN, BOBCAT and TRACY appear in their van. JAN And BOBCAT are freewheeling “rubbertramps” in their 30’s/40’s. Fun-loving, counterculture, but there’s a melancholic or edgy undertow that can emerge. Tracy’s in her teens, worldly yet innocent.]

1. HOME IS THE ROAD

Climb on in.

JAN

Thanks for stopping. I’ve been out here a while.

ALEX

I’m Jan, this is Bobcat.

JAN

And Tracy.

TRACY

Alexander. Alexander Supertramp.

ALEX

Supertramp? Man, I told Bobcat, this kid’s never gonna get a ride, got his thumb half out, sittin’ down with a stupid hat on, reading a book.

JAN

BOBCAT
Yeah, whatcha reading?

ALEX
Guide to edible plants.

BOBCAT
(rolls his eyes)
You're eating berries off the side of the road? Get this kid some snacks.

JAN
Where you headed?

ALEX
Making my way up the coast to Seattle.

TRACY
We're heading up to Orick Beach. Wanna come?

ALEX
Thanks, but I'm kinda doing a solo thing –

BOBCAT
Lone wolfing it! Right on, Supertramp.

JAN
You're missing out, kid. Orick beach is something else.

ALEX
You have a beach house up there?

BOBCAT
Beach house?! Hell, yeah Bra, you're riding in it.

JAN
WHO NEEDS WALLS AND PICKET FENCES?
WHEN YOU'VE GOT WHEELS TO TAKE YOUR SENSES
FURTHER THAN YOU KNOW

TRACY
YOU CAN HAVE A WINDOW VIEW
THAT NEEDS IMPROVING
BUT WHY NOT HAVE A VIEW THAT'S MOVING EVERYWHERE
YOU GO?

JAN/TRACY
LOSE THE HOUSE
WITH HARDWOOD FLOORS
AND YOU'VE GOT MILES

JAN/TRACY (CONT.)

OF SANDY SHORES
WHEN HOME IS THE ROAD

JAN
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SETTLE

JAN/TRACY
HOME IS THE ROAD

JAN
PUT YOUR FOOT TO THE PEDAL
GET WITH THE VIBE.
NOW YOU'RE ROLLING WITH THE TRIBE

ALEX
If you're going through Redding, maybe you could drop me at a bus station –

JAN
You got money for a bus?

ALEX
No.

JAN
You're not gonna get a ride from a bus station, Novice-tramp.

BOBCAT
Besides where you gonna spend the night?

TRACY
Orick beach is on your way—sea cliffs— foamy waves.

ALEX
I'm not a fan of the ocean – you can't tell what's under there-

BOBCAT
Suit yourself, Bra, but the sunsets you see there are the meaning of life personified.

JAN
You got somewhere else you need to be?

ALEX
Nah, I'm free.

JAN
You're just tramping around the country having a big old adventure, huh?

ALEX

You could say that.

BOBCAT

Us too, best way to live cheap under the sun.

JAN/BOBCAT

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD IS EVER-CHANGING
AND THERE'S NO NEED FOR REARRANGING
SOFA BEDS AND CHAIRS
YOU DON'T NEED TO LAY DOWN NEW LINOLEUM
JUST PUT IN SOME PETROLEUM
AND BURN AWAY YOUR CARES

TRACY

START THE ENGINE
TURN THE KEY
HIT THE HIGHWAY
WILD AND FREE

JAN/BOBCAT/ALEX/TRACY

WHEN HOME IS THE ROAD

JAN/BOBCAT/TRACY

YOU'RE ROLLIN' TOGETHER

JAN/BOBCAT/ALEX/TRACY

HOME IS THE ROAD

JAN/BOBCAT/TRACY

WHATEVER THE WEATHER

JAN/BOBCAT

WHERE YOU NEED TO BE

JAN

YOUR NEWFOUND FAMILY

ALEX

HOME IS SOMETHING BIGGER
I FEEL IT WHEN I'M HEADING SOMEWHERE NEW
HOME'S A NEW HORIZON

ALEX/TRACY

I FEEL IT WHEN I'M RIDING NEXT TO YOU

JAN/BOBCAT/ALEX/TRACY

WHEN HOME IS THE ROAD

JAN/BOBCAT/ALEX/TRACY

HOME IS EACH OTHER
HOME IS THE ROAD
LEANING ON ONE ANOTHER
AT THE END OF THE DAY

JAN

I'VE GOT YOU

BOBCAT

I'VE GOT YOU

ALEX/TRACY

I'VE GOT YOU

JAN/BOBCAT/ALEX/TRACY

AND HOME IS THE HIGHWAY

[Lights shift. Transition to a beach bonfire.]

[Projection: Orick Beach, California.]

[By the fire. Jan and Bobcat smoke a joint, drink
tequila.]

ALEX

You've got cool parents.

TRACY

I wish they were my parents.

JAN

I won't tell your mom you said that.

TRACY

Nah, we're neighbors- they park their rig near us.

BOBCAT

We took her on a little jaunt, now we're on our way back down to The Slabs.

ALEX

The Slabs?

JAN

It's an old abandoned navy base - just a big slab of concrete out there in the middle of the
desert.

BOBCAT

When the weather turns cold *everybody* shows up there.

TRACY

It's really cool, you'd love it.

BOBCAT

This kinda life appeals to ya, huh Supertramp?

ALEX

Yeah.

JAN

What're you doing for cash?

ALEX

Money makes you complacent. Life's way more interesting penniless.

JAN

Is that so?

BOBCAT

You riding the rails then? Hopping trains?

ALEX

Not yet.

JAN

Don't go telling him how to hop trains—

BOBCAT

You get on it moving slow. But that's when the bulls are watching for you—and they are lunatics.

JAN

You can get thrown in jail.

BOBCAT

It'll get you places a lot faster than hitching—

JAN

You know a freight train will kill you.

BOBCAT

Quit mothering him. He's a grown man.

JAN

He's a kid.

BOBCAT

What do you want to do, adopt another stray?

JAN

You had enough to drink yet?

BOBCAT

He can take care of himself, can't you?

[Silence.]

He doesn't need you.

[She doesn't respond.]

The way you smother people it's your own damn fault.

[Silence.]

Shit. See you in the morning, Supertramp.

[He exits. Pause.]

TRACY

I'm gonna to take a walk on the beach. Anybody want to come?

JAN

I'm good, thanks hon.

ALEX

Maybe in the morning?

TRACY

Maybe.

[She exits. Pause.]

JAN

Alexander Supertramp, breaking hearts.

ALEX

I'd rather stay here with you.

[Pause.]

JAN

Some things are easy to get into and hard to get out of.

ALEX
How long have you been together?

JAN
Too long.

ALEX
So?

JAN
So?

ALEX
You can get out of anything you need to, you know.

JAN
That's a great outlook, kid. Hang onto that.

[He smiles and shrugs.]

JAN
What are you doing out here with no money? If things get rough out here, or you get stuck in a bad situation. You get into trouble, take that safety net.

ALEX
What safety net?

JAN
You've got this fancy designer backpack and a homemade sleeping bag. Who made that for you?

ALEX
My mom.

JAN
Does she know where you are?

ALEX
I haven't talked to them in a while.

JAN
I'm just saying – it looks like you're pretty well loved. If I was your mom, I'd want to know.

ALEX
I've done things like this before.

[Billie and Walt, Chris/Alex's parents appear.]

BILLIE

But never without calling, Walt, he's never just dropped off the face of the earth.

WALT

You sure? Christopher McCandless.

APARTMENT MANAGER

McCandless, yeah, he moved out.

BILLIE

When?

APARTMENT MANAGER

Couple of months ago. End of June.

WALT

You're kidding me.

APARTMENT MANAGER

Tell me about it, I probably won't be able to rent the place till September.

JAN

You should let 'um know you're okay. Just write them a postcard or something.

BILLIE

Did he say why? Where he was going?

APARTMENT MANAGER

Didn't say anything. Just cleared out. You're his parents?

BILLIE

We hadn't heard from him since May, and he doesn't have a phone, so we drove down here. Surprise him.

WALT

Looks like he surprised us.

APARTMENT MANAGER

If I hear anything, I'll let you know.

[Walt and Billie are gone.]

ALEX

It's just best this way.

JAN

Best for who?

(pause)

JAN

Did something happen between you and them?

[Alex is quiet.]

I bet they want to know that you're okay. Just give them a call.

2.

RESTLESS SOUL

ALEX

It's just better being out here on my own. I can breathe.
Besides, I know what she'd say.

BILLIE

WHEN YOU WERE TWO I COULDN'T SLEEP
I TOSSED AND TURNED
I WOKE UP IN A SWEAT
AND RAN DOWNSTAIRS
I CHECKED YOUR ROOM
AN EMPTY BED
AND SAW THE FRONT DOOR OPEN WIDE
I FROZE AND MOUTHED SOME PRAYERS

I STOOD THERE STARING AT THE WORLD OUTSIDE
A FOGGY NIGHT IT WAS COLD
I FELT SUSPENDED
A FRANTIC SEARCH THEN FLASHING LIGHTS,
BLUE AND RED IN THE DRIVEWAY
THE NIGHTMARE HAD ENDED
AND YOU WERE SAFE IN MY ARMS...

IT TURNED OUT THAT YOU HADN'T GONE FAR
I FOUND YOU WITH YOUR HAND IN THE NEIGHBOR'S CANDY
JAR
I TOLD THE OFFICER WHEN HE ASKED
IT HAD ALL BEEN A MISTAKE
MY SON, GIVE HIM A BREAK,

HE'S JUST A RESTLESS SOUL
A RESTLESS SOUL
A RESTLESS SOUL I GUESS
HE'S GOT A RESTLESS SOUL
A RESTLESS SOUL
A RESTLESS SOUL, GOD BLESS
HIS RESTLESS SOUL

JAN

I've got a kid about your age.

ALEX

Yeah?

JAN

Haven't seen him in a while. He took off – he got some job in Reno and said he'd call. But months went by and now it's years – I haven't heard from him.

ALEX

Wherever he is, he's probably just doing what he needs to do.

JAN

Nah, I messed him up.

ALEX

It's not you.

JAN

EVERY NIGHT
A SLEEPLESS NIGHT

SITTING HERE TALKING TO MYSELF
STARING AT THE SAME
BLANK GREY WALL
EVERY RUNNER IN THE STREET I SEE
EVERY KID WITH A BACKPACK ON
I THINK IT'S HIM
CAN'T HE CALL?

IF HE SHOWED UP NOW
OUT OF THE BLUE
I DON'T KNOW IF I WOULD HIT HIM OR HOLD HIM
I LEFT HOME WHEN I WAS SEVENTEEN
DOESN'T HE THINK I UNDERSTAND
I WISH I HAD TOLD HIM

“I WAS A RESTLESS SOUL
A RESTLESS SOUL
A RESTLESS SOUL LIKE YOU
YOU'VE GOT MY RESTLESS SOUL
MY RESTLESS SOUL
MY RESTLESS SOUL, YOU DO
MY RESTLESS SOUL”

BILLIE/JAN

GOD GAVE YOU TO ME AND YOU WERE MINE
I LOOKED INTO YOUR EYES AND SAW THEM SHINE

WHERE IS MY RESTLESS SOUL

BILLIE/JAN (CONT.)

MY RESTLESS SOUL
MY RESTLESS SOUL TONIGHT?
I HOPE MY RESTLESS SOUL
MY RESTLESS SOUL
IS GONNA BE ALRIGHT...
RESTLESS SOUL...
RESTLESS SOUL...

JAN

We're heading down to The Slabs in the morning. You're welcome to come along.

ALEX

Thanks.

JAN

You can stay with us as long as you want.

RESTLESS SOUL

[Jan exits. Alex alone.]

SCENE FOUR: RIDING THE RAILS

[Alex puts on his backpack.]

[Projected: A postcard to Jan.]

[The scene changes, Skid Row.]

ALEX

Hey Jan! How are my favorite rubber tramps doing? Hello! Sorry to have disappeared but, you know, itchy feet. I'll try to make it up to the Slabs to come see you-maybe by Christmas.