

THE 4TH QUARTER

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It's a bright sunny day in Colorado. Johnny is standing at the top of the "Woods" ski run in Vail Colorado. Johnny is a man in his seventies with a grey beard and long grey hair worn in a pony-tail. He looks younger than his years. Johnny surveys the landscape and smiles. He starts to ski the run. The top of the run has medium sized moguls and Johnny traverses them carefully. He skis half way down the run and pauses on the side of the run to catch his breath. Johnny again surveys the landscape and smiles. He continues to ski on a part of the ski run that is steeper and has been groomed. Johnny skis at a faster pace making nicely carved turns. He lets out a few loud whoops. A woman skier with a red ski outfit hears Johnny's yells and smiles. Johnny skis to the bottom and gets on the chair lift. The woman in the red ski outfit ends up sitting next to Johnny on the chairlift. They ride for a while and Johnny turns to the lady.

JOHNNY
(smiling)
Beautiful day ma'am

Tommy, Andy and Davy are seated. They are all holding a can of beer.

DAVY
(raises his can of beer up
in a toast)
Well, here's to the four original
neat guys.

They all raise their can's of beer and then take a swig of beer.

TOMMY
It's good to see you boys.
(looks at Johnny)
Say Johnny, I forgot to ask but how
was your trip to Vail?

JOHNNY
(looks at Tommy)
Awesome. I had great weather and
lots of fresh snow. I did manage to
make it back in one piece. By the
way Tommy, how was your trip to
Florida. Were you able to get any
golf in with your new hip?

TOMMY

The hip is good as long as I keep moving. I was able to golf each day and managed to shoot a few rounds in the eighties, even had some birdies and one eagle. I'll tell you what though, I would not want to go through another hip operation. The operation stopped the pain but the recovery period stunk.

DAVY

(shaking his head)

Yeah I hear ya. I would not want to go through another shoulder operation. It took me six months to be able to bench press 150 pounds again.

ANDY

(smiling)

Well Davy, a seventy five year old guy benching 150 pounds is nothing to sneeze at.

DAVY

(with a slight frown)

Yeah, well I used to bench over 300 pounds when I played semi-pro football. Of course that was over 50 years ago.

(looks at Andy)

Say Andy, I heard you have two new knees. How did that go?

ANDY

Actually, it went rather smooth. No more jogging for me but I'm swimming four miles a day.

TOMMY

(raises his can of beer to Andy)

Well you are one tough son of a gun. Here's to a guy that made a college varsity football team as a 170 pound guard.

ANDY

(smiling)

It was a small college.

JOHNNY

(looks at Andy)
 You played college ball. That's really something. Heck, I was a 5th string center in high school.

ANDY

As I remember, you were a starter as a sophomore. Look at you now. How many seventy five year old guys still ski?

JOHNNY

Well, I've got you gents all beat when it comes to operations. My rotator cuff operation from that motorcycle accident and my prostate operation. Now my doctor tells me that I'm going to need a new hip.
 (takes a big swig of beer)
 You know this is really funny. Here we all are talking about our operations. Sixty years ago it was just cars and women. Mostly women.

DAVY

(points at Johnny and laughs)
 Yeah, but with you it was mostly cars.

TOMMY

(stands up)
 Yeah but Johnny was a real ladies man. Say who's ready for another beer.

DAVY

(takes a swig of beer, shakes the can and then hands his can to Tommy)
 I'll take one Sir.

Johnny and Andy hand their cans to Tommy. He returns with three cans and hands them out.

JOHNNY

(takes a big swig of beer and gets a serious look on his face)
 You know, it just dawned on me. We are all playing the game in the **4th Quarter.**

TOMMY

Ah, you might say that.

ANDY

(grinning)

Maybe we are all in overtime.

DAVY

(takes a big swig of beer)

Golly, I sure hope not.

Curtain closes. The song "Hello Darling" by Conway Twitty starts to play,

3

INT - JOHNNY'S KITCHEN - MORNING

3

The curtain opens. Johnny and Rosa are sitting at the kitchen table drinking coffee.

ROSA

(stirs her coffee)

How are the boys doing? You were home awfully early last night. I hope you didn't drink too much, you didn't did you?

JOHNNY

Nope. Two beers at Tommy's and a glass of cabernet with my steak.

(takes a sip of coffee)

The boys are all doing well. Andy's back to swimming. Tommy's golfing again and Davy looks great. We just can't party like we used to.

ROSA

(pour herself a cup of coffee)

Thank goodness for that. I wouldn't want to go around searching the taverns for you again. Boy, you were awfully restless last night.

JOHNNY

My goodness. That was over fifty years ago and it only happened once, well maybe twice. Boy, you've got a good memory.

(pours himself a cup of coffee)

To answer your question.

(MORE)

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

last night we ended up all talking about our operations then I made a comment that really put the hook in me. I thought about it while driving home and I really had trouble getting to sleep last night.

ROSA

What comment did you make?

JOHNNY

(his voice takes on a serious tone)

We were all talking about our operations and I made a comment that we are all playing the game in the 4th Quarter. You know we are all 75 years old.

ROSA

I guess you could say that but why would that bother you?

JOHNNY

I got to thinking, what really happens when the final whistle blows and the game is over.

ROSA

(shaking her head)

Sometimes you really scare me. By the way, I saw Sonny's wife at the beauty parlor yesterday. She told me that she and Sonny might be moving to Florida permanently. They are looking at a condo not too far from Jamie's. Did you know about this?

JOHNNY

Yup.

ROSA

(frowning)

Well why didn't you tell me about that? You blab about everything else Sonny does especially when he gets a new Harley or a new gun.

JOHNNY

(stands up)

I just don't want to get into another discussion with you again about moving to Florida.

ROSA

(points her finger at Johnny)

Now hold on a minute. I'm getting sick of these cold winters. Also we'd be close to Jamie and I love Florida's seashores.

JOHNNY

(sits down)

First of all there are no ski area's in Florida. Secondly, it's dangerous to ride a motorcycle in Florida and thirdly, it's hot and humid. There are also snakes and bugs in Florida. I hate snakes. Plus, we live on a lake now so what's the big deal about the seashore? Do you remember when I worked for that Connecticut company and you went with me to Miami for those board meetings? It was 95 degrees at night!

ROSA

(shaking her head)

I heard this all before. I bet if it were Vail or Aspen, you would move there in an instant.

JOHNNY

(grinning)

I sure would if I were a multi-millionaire. Let's table this discussion for now. How about if we go out to eat tonight? I could go for a big steak. Arguing with you always makes me hungry.

ROSA

Well, finally something we agree on.

(she leaves the room)

JOHNNY

(picks up his cellphone
and hits a speed dial
number)

Hello Steve. This is John. How's the world treating you? That's great. Listen, do you remember at our last gourmet club dinner party when we talked about GOD and Christianity and a hereafter? Well, something has come up that's really bothering me. I'm wondering if we could get together sometime to talk about it? No hurry, when you get a spare moment. Yes, next Thursday at ten O'clock would be perfect. Thanks Steve. Oh, say hi to Kathy for me.

Rosa re-enters the room

ROSA

What was that all about?

JOHNNY

Oh that remark I made about what happens when the whistle blows for the 4th Quarter has really been bothering me. Steve is up on this kind of stuff and I'm going to meet with him .

ROSA

(shakes her head)

You sure let little things bother you.

JOHNNY

(in a serious tone)

This may not be a little thing.

Curtain closes. The song "Book of Love" by the Monotones starts to play.

4

INT. STEVE'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

4

The curtain opens. Steve hears a knock on the door. He puts down a Bible he was reading and answers the knock. Johnny enters. They shake hands and then sit down.

STEVE

(smiling)

How about a cup of coffee?

JOHNNY

(nods)

No thanks. I had my five cups for the day.

STEVE

Well, what's been bothering you old friend?

JOHNNY

(sighs)

This may sound silly to you but the other night I went out with three of my old friends. We've been like brothers since we were kids. All of us are seventy five years old.

STEVE

(interrupts)

I'll be seventy five myself next year. I hope that's not what's bothering you.

JOHNNY

No that that. We all ended up talking about our medical operations. It used to be cars and women. I then made a comment that we are all playing the game in the 4th Quarter.

STEVE

Well, that's true enough.

JOHNNY

One of my friends made the comment, maybe we're all playing the game in overtime. On the way home, I started to wonder what really happens when the game is over and the final whistle blows.

STEVE

Why would that bother you?

JOHNNY

(looks at Steve)

I believe in GOD and a hereafter and here's why. I reasoned this out myself a long time ago.

(MORE)

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

If this short life we live on earth is all there ever is, then why not do everything in one's power to extract the maximum amount of pleasure, wealth and power during our time here on earth no matter how it will hurt other human beings. If there is no hereafter and no GOD to be accountable to, why be concerned about how we live our lives? Why do we have a conscience and feel guilty when we do something wrong? I don't believe that a piece of slime crawled out of the sea and evolved into a human being with a conscience and intelligence. I reasoned this myself a few years ago. I just can't believe that a person like Hitler can do all that evil and not have to answer for it. What a hopeless existence if it all ends in an instant and there is nothing to look forward to? Sometimes I still have doubts about GOD and a hereafter. I'm able to easily dispel these doubts. Does any of my reasoning make any sense to you?

STEVE

(nods his head)

Yes it does but you still haven't told me what's bothering you.

JOHNNY

You mentioned that if a person does not believe in Jesus, they will burn in hell for all eternity. I believe in Jesus but again I have my doubts. The doubts I get about Jesus are sometimes harder to dispel. When you're playing the game in the 4th Quarter and maybe in overtime, I don't want to take anything for granted.

STEVE

Well, I can see where that could bother someone. Do ever read the Bible?

JOHNNY

(nods his head)

No I don't. In fact, I can't ever remember reading the Bible.

STEVE

That would be a good start. Just try to read a few pages each day. You need to build your faith. I'll give you some books to read that will help you do that. Don't worry so much about the 4th Quarter. I like to think we both have a lot of game time left before the whistle blows.

JOHNNY

(smiling)

Thanks Steve. I really appreciate your meeting with me. I just can't believe how time flies. Last month in Vail, I had to show my I.D. to buy a senior lift ticket. It wasn't long ago when I had to show my I.D. to get into a beer bar.

STEVE

(grinning)

Yeah, I remember those days. Well, when you get to be our age, every day is a gift. Sometimes we just don't appreciate how good we have it.

JOHNNY

You got that right. I had something to me a long long time ago that I'll never forget. One Sunday I was ushering and standing in the back of church in foul mood, feeling real sorry for himself. There were some real important reasons. I had a hangover from too much to drink the night before at a party and at the party I spilled coffee on a \$600.00 suit. My riding lawn mower wouldn't start and I had to cut the grass with a push mower. Of course I also had to be up rather early on a Sunday. Just then a young man in his early twenties came in. He had a patch over one eye and was walking with a cane.

(MORE)

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

It was a great effort for him to walk and he moved very slowly. I watched him walk all the way to the front of church and sit in the front pew. It probably took him five minutes to walk the length of the church aisle. As I was watching him, his father walked up to and said "See what Vietnam did to my boy?". I knew the father from church. The father told me that a sniper's bullet entered his son's eye and exited out the back of his head leaving him with very serious physical disabilities. I was really shaken by all of this and said to myself "You stupid son of a bitch. You really have it rough". That taught me to appreciate how good I have it. To this day, whenever I go to church on Sundays I always sit in the first or second pew.

STEVE

That's quite a story. I'm going to tell this one to my Bible Study group. Say Johnny, would you like to meet again next week?

JOHNNY

That would be great. Steve, I really appreciate your spending time with me.

They both stand up and shake hands. The curtain closes.

5 INT. STAGE WITH THE CURTAIN CLOSED - CONTINUOUS

5

Johnny walks out unto the stage. He is holding a Bible. He addresses the audience.

JOHNNY

(smiling)

Well now. Happy to see you are still here. I started meeting with Steve on a weekly basis. Our conversations were lighthearted and congenial. I also started reading the Bible and the books that Steve gave me. It took a while but I stopped worrying about the 4th Quarter.

(MORE)

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

I started to feel a calmness and peace I'd never known before. Now it's time for breakfast with Rosa. She was in a water aerobics class with Sonny's wife. I know what the topic at the breakfast table will be. Now don't get me wrong, Rosa is the best thing that ever happened to me. She has been a good wife to me and good mother to our children for over fifty years. What other woman would let me have three Harley's in our garage? Lets see what's for breakfast.

6 INT. JOHNNY'S KITCHEN - MORNING

6

The curtain opens. Rosa is sitting at the breakfast table. Johnny walks in and sits down.

ROSA

(pours Johnny a cup of coffee)

I must say you are a lot calmer since you've been meeting with Steve. What do you guys talk about anyway?.

JOHNNY

(stirs his coffee)

Just things in general. He has helped me reaffirm my beliefs. I'm not so concerned about what happens when the whistle blows in the 4th Quarter.

ROSA

(shaking her head)

I just can't believe you let stuff like that bother you. Oh, by the way, I saw Betty in the pool today. She and Sonny have decided to move to Florida permanently. Aren't you getting sick of these Wisconsin winters?

JOHNNY

(he cups his mouth and looks at the audience)

Here it comes.

ROSA
(in a loud voice)
What?

JOHNNY
(smiling)
Nothing. Nothing. Tell you what my
dear, when they get a ski hill in
Florida, then I'll move there. I'm
going to be skiing into my
eighties.

ROSA
(frowning)
Well that's ridiculous statement.
Besides, by the way you are
starting to limp around, I think
your skiing days are numbered. I
suppose you think will also be
riding a motorcycle in your
eighties?

JOHNNY
(in a serious tone)
You really know how to hurt a guy.
I plan on skiing and riding my
Harley's well in my eighties among
a few other things.

ROSA
I didn't mean to hurt your
feelings. I'm just being realistic.
What other things were you planning
to do?

Johnny gets a big grin on his face.

ROSA (CONT'D)
Oh that. By the way, do you really
need three Harley's in our garage?

JOHNNY
(grinning)
You have more than one pair of
shoes.

ROSA
(shakes her head)
That's another ridiculous
statement. So what's on the agenda
for this weekend?

JOHNNY

I'm going to shoot a Cowboy Action match with Sonny on Saturday. How about going out for brunch on Sunday? We could go to that new restaurant in Lake Geneva. Let's take one of the Harley's.

ROSA

(smiles)

Sound wonderful but please take your Electra-Glide. That chopper of yours give me a sore butt.

JOHNNY

No comment.

Curtain closes. The song "Back in the Saddle again" by Gene Autry starts to play.

7 INT. STAGE WITH THE CURTAIN CLOSED

7

Johnny walks out unto the stage. He is dressed in a cowboy outfit and is carrying a clipboard.

JOHNNY

Howdy everyone. Today our Cowboy club will be shooting another monthly match. I'm the Match Director and I'll be greeting the participants along with holding a safety meeting. Safety is our number one priority. In this sport participants must dress like up loke a Cowboy and shoot old West firearms at steel targets. My friend Sonny will be shooting with me. Lets get started.

The curtain opens.

8 EXT. A COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING RANGE - DAY

8

A group of four men, one woman and Sonny are standing in a circle talking amongst themselves. They are all dressed in Cowboy clothing and wearing a holster rig with a (non-firing replica) revolver inside the holster. Johnny walks over to the group.

JOHNNY
(looks at his watch)
Can I have your attention please?

The group stops talking and gathers around Johnny.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Let me thank you all for joining us today. The temperature is decent right now but it's going to get warmer later on so drink plenty of water. Today's match is based on the Gunfight at the OK Corral. Our next match will be on the 3rd Saturday next month. Now for our safety meeting. Pointing a gun at anyone along with any unsafe handling of firearms will result in a match disqualification. Only put five rounds in your pistols and have the hammer down on an empty chamber. Remember, safety is number one. Any questions? OK. I'd like to say a prayer before we start.

Johnny removes his hat and the rest of the group remove their hats. Sonny leaves his hat on and puts a cigar in his mouth. He walks over to a table and puts his pistol on the table.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Heavenly Father, we thank you for this wonderful sport we participate in and the beautiful weather you have given us today. We thank you for this great country we live in and the men and women in our military who protect us. We ask you to give us a safe shoot. We ask you to protect this great country of ours and the men and women who guard our freedom. We ask this in your son Jesus' name Amen.

The group responds with a hearty Amen.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Everyone have a safe and fun shoot.

Johnny walks to the table Sonny is standing next to.

SONNY
(points to his pistol on
the table)
Hey Johnny. Please check my pistol.

JOHNNY

(picks up Sonny's pistol,
examines it then puts it
back on the table)

Your pistol is good to go. The
hammer's on an empty chamber. Say,
I hope you didn't mind me saying a
prayer before the match.

SONNY

(holsters his pistol)
Why do you say that?

JOHNNY

I saw you walking away during the
prayer. Everyone else had their hat
off and was listening to the
prayer.

SONNY

Well, the prayer was okay. We do
have a lot to be thankful for but I
don't need that son of GOD Jesus
stuff. There ain't any such person.

JOHNNY

No GOD either?

SONNY

(in a snotty tone)
Nope and don't start preaching to
me either. I don't like listening
to bible thumpers.

JOHNNY

(smiles)
I ain't a bible thumper Sonny.

Curtain closes. The song "Happy Trails" by Roy Rogers starts
to play.

9

INT. JOHNNY'S KITCHEN

9

The curtain opens. Rosa is sitting at the breakfast table.
Johnny walks in and sits down.

ROSA

How did you shoot?

JOHNNY

(frowns)
Not too bad. One lousy miss or I'd
have had a clean match.

(MORE)

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

I found something out about Sonny today. He doesn't believe in GOD or a hereafter.

ROSA

How did that come up?

JOHNNY

I always say a short prayer before each match. He didn't take his hat off during he prayer, instead, He light up a cigar and walked away. When I asked him about it, he got a little hot under the collar.

ROSA

What are you going to do about it?

JOHNNY

(shakes his head)

Nothing, he's been a good friend. I've known him for over ten years and that's the first time he ever got snotty with me.

ROSA

(shake her finger at
Johnny)

Don't you take any guff from him.

JOHNNY

(smiles)

Naw, it was no big deal. He's really a good guy. By the way he will be moving to Florida next month.

ROSA

I suppose it's no use to talk to you about moving to Florida.

JOHNNY

Funny you should mention that. I have to admit that I was in some pain when the match ended. I probably should go see that orthopedic surgeon again. Boy, I really hate to get a new hip. That certainly would ruin my skiing.

ROSA

Why is that? Lots of people ski on artificial hips and knees.

JOHNNY

(pulls out his cell phone)
I have an app on this phone that records each run I make. It records the amount of vertical feet I ski and also my maximum speed for each run. Not too long ago, I was clocked at over 54 miles an hour on the Big Thunder run. If I fell at that speed on an artificial hip, it would be terrible. I don't even want to think about it.

ROSA

(points her finger at Johnny)
An old man like you should not be skiing that fast. Why don't you just ski slower with a new hip?

JOHNNY

(nods)
That I cannot do. Are there any Heineken's in the fridge?

ROSA

(stands up)
You drank the last Heineken yesterday. Do you want a Pabst or Miller?

JOHNNY

I'll take a PBR please.

ROSA

(points a finger at Johnny)
Oh, and please don't clean your guns on the kitchen table again.

JOHNNY

(grinning)
Yes, Sarge.

Curtain closes. The theme song from Rocky starts to play.

10

INT. STAGE WITH THE CURTAIN CLOSED - CONTINUOUS

10

Johnny, still wearing his Cowboy outfit walks out unto the stage. He addresses the audience.

JOHNNY

Well I thought I was Iron Man. Someone once said that when you are over seventy, you get into the metallic age, Silver in your hair, Gold in your teeth and lead in your butt and I cleaned that one up for you ladies out there. Well now you can add Titanium to that list. My hip finally gave out and I had to get a new one. It was really amazing. They operated on a Monday at eleven in the morning, had me walking that evening and I went home the next day in the afternoon. Thank GOD I had Rosa to care for me. She was a jewel and had the patience of a saint. Rosa talked me into doing water aerobics and my recovery went well. I did decide to stop skiing. Since I no longer had any use for snow and cold weather, I started thinking seriously about moving to Florida. Rosa was ecstatic. We eventually sold on lake home in Wisconsin and moved to a fifty five plus community in the Tampa-Saint Pete area. Truth be told, I used to make jokes about retirement communities. Well, not anymore. We love our new home and our new lifestyle. I sold my Harley's and told Rosa that I'd buy one in Florida. We see our son Jamie every week and get together often with Sonny and his wife. Sonny found a nearby Cowboy Club and we shoot a match just about every weekend. In fact I'll be meeting Sonny shortly at a local pub. We shot a match today and we usually stop for a bite to eat and a few beers. The Match Director asked me to say a prayer before the match. As usual, Sonny ignored the prayer. .

11 INT. FRED'S PUB - AFTERNOON

11

The curtain opens. Sonny is sitting at a table. Johnny walks over and sits down.

JOHNNY

(he takes his hat off)
How did you shoot today?

SONNY

(smiling)
I had a clean shoot and took second place in my class. Say, I hate to bring this up but you looked a little put out when I walked away during your prayer. I don't care if you say a prayer. It's a free country. You can say anything you want. I just don't believe in that Religious mumbo jumbo.

JOHNNY

(shakes his head slowly)
It's not mumbo jumbo Sonny. You still don't believe in a Creator and a hereafter, do you?

SONNY

(in a forceful tone)
No. I don't.

JOHNNY

(smiles)
Lets drop it and enjoy our food.
How about a beer my friend?

Johnny motions for a waitress. A very young girl comes over to their table.

WAITRESS

(smiling)
What can I get you gentlemen?

SONNY

I'll a big Miller High Life tapper and a mushroom swiss burger.

JOHNNY

I'll have the same.

WAITRESS

(writes the orders down on a pad)
Got it. Say, are you guys Cowboys?

SONNY

(in a fake southern drawl)
We sure are ma'am. I'm Hopalong and this is my partner Dingalong.

(MORE)

SONNY (CONT'D)

If you all don't believe me, our horses are parked right outside.

The Waitress giggles and walks away. Johnny shakes his head and smiles.

SONNY (CONT'D)

Say, how does Rosa like Florida.

JOHNNY

She loves it. She likes being close to Jamie and the seashore. Besides Jamie will take care of her if something happens to me.

SONNY

(points his finger at Johnny)

Who ski's at seventy five? You are Iron Man.

JOHNNY

I'm not so sure. I haven't been feeling quite right lately.

The waitress returns with two beers.

WAITRESS

(smiling)

Here you are Mr. Hopalong.

SONNY

(in a fake southern drawl)

Thank ya ma'am.

(he looks at Johnny)

There's a nasty bug going around. You might have a touch of it. I gotta tell you Johnny. I'm really sorry for getting hot about the prayer thing. It's just that I don't believe in a hereafter.

JOHNNY

(picks his beer up and toasts Sonny)

Lets enjoy our beers Sonny. Here's to your clean match.

SONNY

(takes a swig of beer)

How about going to the range tomorrow? I want to try out my new set of pistols.

JOHNNY

I'd like to but I've got a Doctor's appointment tomorrow at noon.

SONNY

I hope it's nothing serious.

JOHNNY

I don't think so. Lately I've had some difficulty swallowing along with my vision being blurred at times. I just want to get it checked out.

SONNY

(smiles)

Well there was nothing wrong with your vision today with only one miss. By the way, when are you going to buy another Harley? I sure miss our rides together".

JOHNNY

(takes a swig of beer)

I guess I got wrapped up in the move. I still plan on buying one but I'm not in a hurry. I'm thinking of getting another Heritage Softail. I don't need a big touring bike anymore. I don't plan doing any more long trips.

The curtain closes. The song "Happy trails" by Dale Evans and Roy Rogers starts to play.

12 INT. THE DOCTORS OFFICE - DAY

12

Johnny is seated in a doctors office. He is dressed up in a suit and necktie. The Doctor walks in. He shakes Johnny's hand and sits down.

DOCTOR

(smiles)

I see you decided to come alone today. You are looking pretty good sir.

(his voice takes on a serious tone)

Unfortunately, my news for you is not good. All of the tests reveal that you have CJD also known as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

JOHNNY

I never heard of that one. What's the prognosis and please don't beat around the bush.

The Doctor stands and puts his hand on Johnny's shoulder.

DOCTOR

It's not good. I'm going to give it to you straight Johnny. Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease is a very rare, irreversible brain disorder and it's terminal.

JOHNNY

(bits his lip and winces)
How much time do I have left?

DOCTOR

It's hard to tell. A year, maybe less.

JOHNNY

What will I be able to do?

DOCTOR

Just about anything you want for a while but eventually you will become bed ridden. I want you to call me every week.

JOHNNY

(forces a smile)
Thank you for giving it to me straight Doc.

They shake hands. The curtain closes. The song "Born to be wild" by Steppenwolf starts to play.

13

INT. STAGE WITH THE CURTAIN CLOSED - DAY

13

Johnny walks out dressed in motorcycle clothing holding a cigar. He addresses the audience.

JOHNNY

(smiling)
I thought I'd take one more ride on a Harley while I still can. Now I don't want anyone feeling sorry for me. I have absolutely no regrets.

(MORE)

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

I'm married to a wonderful lady, have three wonderful children, always enjoyed my work and had a pain free life. You might say I've led a charmed life. A person couldn't ask for anything more. Have you ever seen the movie "Pride of the Yankee's" with Gary Cooper. Remember the last scene when Lou Gehrig is giving his farewell speech at Yankee stadium? He knows his time is limited and he says "I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of this earth". Well that's me. The luckiest man on the face of the earth. Today I went to the local Harley dealer and rented one of my favorite Harley models, a Heritage Softail. This model is styled to look like a Harley from the fifties. The weather was perfect. I drove down Gulf Boulevard for a while then stopped by St. Pete's beach to smoke a cigar.

14

EXT. ST. PETE'S DEACH - DAY

14

The curtain opens. Johnny walks over to a park bench and sits down and looks at the bay. A Harley Davidson Heritage Softail is parked nearby. A Red 1959 Corvette is also nearby. A Police officer walks up to Johnny.

POLICE OFFICER

(in a friendly tone)

Excuse me sir but tobacco products are not allowed on this beach. Please put it out.

JOHNNY

(smiles)

No problem Officer. Gee, I hope you don't give me a ticket. I didn't know that smoking was not allowed here.

POLICE OFFICER

(smiles)

No ticket today. They just passed the "no tobacco" ordinance and not too many people are aware of it yet. Say, it that your Harley over there?

JOHNNY

No. I'm just renting it for the day.

(Johnny grins)

Golly, I hope they don't pass a law against Harley's.

POLICE OFFICER

(laughs)

I sure hope not. I've just bought a new Electra-Glide. Are you a new rider?

JOHNNY

Nope. I've been riding for almost sixty years. Back in Wisconsin, I used to have three Harley's in my garage at all times.

POLICE OFFICER

Wow. I had trouble convincing the wife to let me have just one. Are you planning on buying another one here in Florida?

JOHNNY

(smiles)

Not right now. I've got slight health issue I'm dealing with.

POLICE OFFICER

Well I hope it's nothing serious. You have a nice day Sir and keep the shiny side up.

JOHNNY

(stands up)

Thank you. It's nothing I can't handle. You have a good day too Officer.

They shake hands and the Officer walks away. Johnny sits down on the park bench. He looks at the bay. An elderly Nun with a cane slowly walks past the Harley. She stops and studies the Harley for a minute and then walks up to the park bench.

NUN

(she taps on the bench with her cane)

Excuse me young man. Is that your motorcycle?

JOHNNY

(slightly startled)

For today it is. Boy, I can't remember when someone called me young man. I might be older than you are ma'am.

NUN

(laughs)

I'm ninety five Sonny. Do you mind if I sit for a minute. Say, you wouldn't a cigarette on you, would you?

JOHNNY

(smiles)

The city passed an ordinance banning all tobacco products on this beach. I almost got a ticket for smoking a cigar here. Besides, don't you know cigarette smoking is hazardous to your health?

NUN

(laughs)

At ninety five I should worry? Do have anything to drink? I'm getting rather thirsty.

JOHNNY

(smiles)

I've got a couple of cans of beer in my saddle bags. They might be a bit on the warm side.

NUN

(smiles)

A beer would be just fine Sonny, provided you have one with me.

Johnny gets up and gets two cans of beer out of the saddle bags. He sits down and opens each can, He hands a can to the Nun.

JOHNNY

(smiling)

Here you go ma'am. Keep em' sort of hidden. I'm sure they don't allow alcohol on this beach either. To whom shall we toast to?

Johnny raises his can for a toast.

NUN

(smiles)

Lets toast to Jesus. I'm going to
be meeting him real soon.

The Nun raises her can. Johnny gets a startled look on his
face and then toasts the Nun's can.

NUN (CONT'D)

Excuse me Sonny. Did I say
something to offend you.

JOHNNY

No you didn't. It's just that I
never thought of toasting Jesus.
Truth be told, I'm going to be
meeting him real soon also.

NUN

Oh, I didn't know. How do you feel
about that? I've lived way beyond
my years but you are much younger
than me.

JOHNNY

I'm seventy five ma'am. I'm really
at peace with myself. The man
upstairs has been very good to me.
I have absolutely no regrets. I'm
married to a wonderful lady for
over fifty years, have three
wonderful children, been successful
in business and had a pain free
life. You might say I've led a
charmed life. A person couldn't ask
for anything more. How about you
ma'am.

NUN

(smiles)

Well, I always wanted a ride on a
Harley.

JOHNNY

(ginning)

Well hop on. Lets go for a ride.

NUN

I'd like to. One more beer and I
just might take you up on that. No,
really I don't think I could swing
these old bones over the seat.
Maybe I could of ten years ago. But
thanks for your very kind offer.

(MORE)

NUN (CONT'D)

Say, what's your name? Mine is Sister Maria.

JOHNNY

Mine's Johnny. Sister Maria, just like the lady in the Sound of Music. What was her name, Baroness Von Trap?

NUN

Yes, just like the lady in the Sound of Music except I never met a Baron. Just kidding. Say, how did you manage to stay married for fifty years?

JOHNNY

(smiling)

We always took separate vacations. My wife has traveled all over the world. I've never been out of the country.

NUN

What did you do? Why did you take separate vacations?

JOHNNY

I'd go to Aspen or Vail for a few weeks each year, go fishing in Canada for another week and went to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally twenty two years in a row. We were in business together and we were around each other twenty four hours a day. Also we trusted each other. She is the finest woman I've ever met.

NUN

(smiles and looks at her watch)

That's just so wonderful. Well, I have to go now. It was so nice to meet you Johnny.

JOHNNY

Me too Sister Maria. Can I call Uber for you.

NUN

(smiles)

No thank you. My car is right over there.

JOHNNY

Let me walk you over to your car.

They walk over to a Red 1959 Corvette. Johnny gets a startled look on his face then smiles.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

This is your Corvette?

NUN

Yes sirree Bob, I only drive it when it's nice out and I can put the top down. I can't get in it with the top up. It is an automatic. I wish it was a four speed.

JOHNNY

(laughing)

How does a Nun get a car like that? I thought you ladies of the cloth swore a vow of poverty.

NUN

My younger brother willed it to me. I've willed it to our Convent with the condition that I can drive it once in a while. Mother Superior wasn't thrilled about that but When I go, this buggy will pay for a new addition to our Convent and then some. You wouldn't believe what this thing is worth.

(she gives Johnny a hug)

Good luck to you Johnny.

Curtain closes. The sound of a loud Corvette taking off and peeling rubber is heard. The song "The Hill's are alive" starts to play.

15

INT. STAGE WITH THE CURTAIN CLOSED - CONTINUOUS

15

Sonny walks out and addresses the audience.

SONNY

It's been thirteen months since my friend Johnny received his diagnosis. For nine months, he did really well. In the last four months his illness started to take it's toll. He is now confined to a bed. I'm just amazed at how great his spirits and attitude are.

(MORE)

SONNY (CONT'D)

I try to visit him at least every other day. He has lots of great memories and loves talking about them. He must have been quite a business man in his day from some of the stories he told. Johnny told me he was made President of a company that was going bankrupt. He said turning the company around was like getting on a ship that was sinking. Everyone is running around looking for life boats. He said now hold on there. If you plug this hole up and that hole up and this one up, you won't sink. He has lead a full life. Today is Christmas eve. Lets go visit Johnny.

Jingle Bells starts to play.

16 INT. JOHNNY' BEDROOM - DAY

16

The curtain raises. Johnny is sitting up in bed. Sonny walks in and sits down next to Johnny.

SONNY

How are you doing today Partner?

JOHNNY

Not too bad. They have me doped up a bit. You know, I've never smoked a joint. Actually, I never did any drugs. Beer has always worked pretty good for me. Once I had eleven beers at a Packer game. I gave Rosa he wrong name of the tavern to meet me at after the game. She went up and down all of Blue Mound Avenue looking in all of the taverns for me. Fifty years later she still reminds me of that.

SONNY

(laughs)

That's quite a story. Truth be told, I've smoked a few joints in my day. You didn't miss anything.

JOHNNY

Did I ever tell you that Bart Starr of he Green Bay Packers offered me a free agent's contract as a wide receiver?

SONNY

Your kidding?

JOHNNY

(smiling)

No, I'm serious. I'll show it to you. It's framed and hanging in my foyer. I used to work with a guy that worked in marketing at Pepsi with Bart Starr. I'd always kid the guy and ask him to talk to Bart about me. So one day in the mail, I get a letter from Bart Starr on Packer stationery asking me to report to training camp. It was a pretty funny letter. Bart said he saw me on the disco floor and my moves would make John Travolta green with envy. Part of the contract said I had to give Bart's secretary disco lessons. The letter was obviously a joke but the beginning looks pretty real. I was thirty seven years old at the time. What I should have done was show at training camp and offer a \$1000 to charity if I could suit up and just catch one pass. I told Bart that I was training for the 1976 Olympic ski Team and couldn't make it.

SONNY

(smiling)

That's another great story. You ought to write a book. Say, is there anything you need, anything I can do for you?

JOHNNY

Naw. There's nothing I need anymore. It won't be much longer now. By the way, are you going golfing tomorrow? I know that's a big tradition with you, golfing on Christmas day.

SONNY

I don't think so. I'm not in the mood this year.

JOHNNY

(points his finger at sonny)

(MORE)

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Sonny, there is something you can do for me. Go golfing tomorrow for me. I saw the weather report and it's supposed to be in the seventies again. Another thing, try to at least start thinking about GOD and a hereafter. I'll be meeting him soon.

Sonny stood up and walked towards the window. He stood there for a few seconds gazing out the window and then walked back and sat down again next to Johnny.

SONNY

I'll go golfing tomorrow for you. Johnny. We have been friends for a long time and we have always been straight with each other. I have to be honest with you. I can't believe there is a GOD or hereafter. There's a much a chance of a hereafter as it is snowing in Florida on Christmas day. You believe what you want. I'm sorry but I have to be honest with you. That's just me. Your GOD dealt you a bad break.

JOHNNY

(smiling)

Sonny, have ever seen the movie "Pride of the Yankee's" with Gary Cooper. Remember the last scene when Lou Gehrig is giving his farewell speech at Yankee stadium? He knows his time is limited and he says "I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of this earth". Well that's me. The luckiest man on the face of the earth. I've had a good life.

SONNY

Well I'm glad you feel that way. I hope I can feel that way someday.

JOHNNY

(hand Sonny an envelope)

Sonny, I wrote my own epitaph. Would you read it for me someday? I'd like to get the last word in. One more thing, here is a copy of my Testimony.

(MORE)

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

My Testimony tells why I believe in GOD and a hereafter. Please read it sometime, for me. Please Sonny.

SONNY

(takes the envelope)

Yes. I will. I'll see you tomorrow after golf. I've got a Christmas gift for you.

JOHNNY

(smiling)

I forgot to get you a Christmas gift but maybe I'll think of something to surprise you with.

The curtain closes.

A voice is heard saying the following:

That evening Johnny passed away peacefully with Rosa and Jamie at his side. Jamie called Sonny to let him know about Johnny. After hearing the news of Johnny's passing, Sonny went into his family room. He pondered his last conversation with Johnny and then read Johnny's Testimony. Sonny then falls asleep in a large chair.

The song "silent Night" starts to play.

17 INT. SONNY'S FAMILY ROOM - MORNING

17

Sonny is sleeping in a large chair. The lights are dim and then get bright. He wakes up and looks at his watch.

SONNY

(stands up)

Wow. It's 7:00 AM. I've got an eight O'clock tee time. I better get moving.

Sonny walks over to a closet and gets his golf clubs. He sets the golf clubs by the chair and walks over to the patio doors. He draws open the patio curtains,

It is snowing and the ground is covered with snow.

SONNY (CONT'D)

(tears well up in Sonny's eyes)

Oh Johnny.

Sonny drops to his knees. He folds his hands together in prayer and looks up to the ceiling.

SONNY (CONT'D)
 (in a loud voice)
Dear God

The curtain closes. The song "Joy to the World" is heard

18 INT. STAGE WITH THE CURTAIN CLOSED - CONTINUOUS 18

Sonny walks out and addresses the audience. He is holding a can of beer.

SONNY
 (smiling)
 Rosa held a celebration on life for Johnny at St. Pete's beach. She had me invite the Four Original Neat Guys from Wisconsin and everyone else Johnny had met here in Florida. Sister Maria drove up in her Corvette. Lets go join the party.

19 EXT. ST. PETE'S DEACH - DAY 19

The entire cast is gathered around chatting with each other. Some of the cast are holding can's of beer. Sister Maria is holding a big glass of red wine.

SONNY
 (puts his beer down and pulls out a piece of paper)
 Hey everyone, I have something to say. Johnny wrote his own eulogy and asked me to read it.

ANDY
 (smiling)
 That sounds like Johnny.

Tommy and Davy smile and raise their beer cans in a toast.

SONNY
 Here goes folks. These are Johnny's own words. I have been to several of these affairs throughout the years and sometimes someone gets up and gives a little speech about the person and their life. Sometimes the comments are very appropriate and sometimes not.

(MORE)

SONNY (CONT'D)

Sometimes the speech giver does not even know the person but pretends to. While the speech giver may have the best of intentions, I'm not so sure that what they say sometimes is what the person would want to have said. So I'm not taking any chances. First of all, if there ever was a person who was blessed with a good life, it was me. The lord has been exceptionally good to me. Simply stated, I wouldn't change a thing. I have been.

Sonny stops reading. The sound of a Harley is heard in the sky. It gets louder and louder then stops. Johnny walks in. He is wearing a white motorcycle outfit and carrying a gold motorcycle helmet. Everyone is dumbfounded. Johnny walks up to Rosa and gives her a big hug.

JOHNNY

(smiles)

Are you behaving yourself my dear?

Rosa is speechless. Sonny walks up to Johnny.

SONNY

(with a puzzled look)

Johnny, how can this be? Am I dreaming or what?

JOHNNY

(grinning)

St. Peter looked at my records and I had to do a little bit of penance first. When I was done, he said I could have one wish. Every wish I asked for was against the rules and was denied. He finally agreed to let me go to this party and say hi to everyone but only for a few minutes. So here I am.

(Johnny turns to the group)

Nice to see you all. Hope to see you all again someday but not too soon.

Tommy, Andy and Davy walk up to Johnny and shake his hand. Sister Maria gives Johnny a hug. Johnny gives Rosa a big hug and kiss. The sound of a Harley is heard again.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
(puts his helmet on)
Well that's my call. Goodbye
everyone.

The cast all wave goodbye and say "Good bye Johnny". Johnny walks off.

The sound of a Harley gets louder for a few seconds then slowly fades away.

The curtain closes.

THE END