

Getting A Head

By

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EXT. LYNCHVILLE - DAY

An overview of a small southern town.

DERRICK(V.O.)
Welcome to Lynchville, South
Carolina.

EXT. DRUG STORE - DAY

A small drug store next to the railroad tracks.

DERRICK(V.O.)
I know everybody has their own
perceptions of southern living. And
some of them are true.

EXT. BAIT AND TACKLE SHOP - DAY

HUNTERS dressed in camouflage converse next to four muddy
Ford trucks with hunting cages.

ONE HUNTER has a THICK MUSTACHE.

DERRICK(V.O.)
Yes, our men look like '70s porn
stars.

EXT. SUPER WAL-MART - DAY

A MOM pushes an overfull shopping cart outside the store.

DERRICK(V.O.)
Yes, we think a Super Wal-Mart
constitutes a mall.

INT. ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

A towering statue of General Robert E. Lee stands in the
lobby. A plaque reads, "The South Shall Rise Again."

DERRICK(V.O.)
Yes, my high school has a 9-foot
tall statue of General Robert E.
Lee.
(a beat)
But Lynchville is just like
everywhere else in some ways. For
instance...

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREET CORNER - DAY

GANG MEMBERS throw up gang signs and flash handguns.

DERRICK(V.O.)

In your city you probably have
people who stand on street corners
with guns. You call them thugs.

EXT. LYNCHVILLE STREET CORNER - DAY

A group of WHITE MEN in camouflage hold shotguns and rifles.

DERRICK(V.O.)

In Lynchville we also have people
who stand on street corners with
guns. We call them rednecks.

INT. CITY HALL - DAY

A CITY COUNCILMAN speaks from a podium. He's fired up.

DERRICK(V.O.)

In your city you probably have
people who damn the poor and bash
the gays. You call them
Republicans.

INT. LYNCHVILLE CHURCH - DAY

A PREACHER speaks from a podium. He's fired up.

DERRICK(V.O.)

In Lynchville we also have people
who damn the poor and bash the
gays. We call them Christians.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

POLICE CARS block off the street. NEW YORK POLICE OFFICERS
exit their cars and attack several BLACK MEN IN HOODIES.

DERRICK(V.O.)

In your city cops like to harass
minorities...

The police officers start beating the black men with clubs.

DERRICK(V.O.) (cont'd)
They call them criminals.

EXT. LYNCHVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

LYNCHVILLE POLICE OFFICERS approach a group of BLACK MEN.

DERRICK(V.O.)
In Lynchville our cops harass
minorities, too. They call them
"niggas."

The police officers beat the black men with clubs.

DERRICK(V.O.) (cont'd)
See just like everywhere else.

EXT. DERRICK'S TRAILER - DAY

A slightly worn down double-wide mobile home.

DERRICK(V.O.)
Lynchville isn't perfect, but what
are you going to do? It's my home.

DERRICK SHERMAN (black, 18) exits his home. He's wearing a nicely pressed pink polo shirt, khaki cargo shorts, and a bookbag. He is the definition of preppy.

DERRICK
Mom, Cory's here. I'm gone.

Derrick closes the door.

Sitting in the driveway is an old, beat-up Cadillac Coupe DeVille with a bumper sticker that reads "What would HOVA do?"

In the driver's seat sits CORY LITTLE (black, 18). He wears a black NWA hoodie, a do-rag, and a basketball cap. He looks like he's recruiting gang members for a drive-by.

Cory hits the horn.

CORY
Come on, Derrick.

DERRICK
I'm standing right here.

Cory hits the horn again. Longer this time.

Derrick gets in the car.

INT. CORY'S CADILLAC - DAY

Cory drives to school. He turns to Derrick and stares at him for a beat. He looks at his shirt, his pants, then back at his shirt. Derrick catches Cory studying him. He shakes his head.

DERRICK
Not today, Cory.

CORY
I just want to know why.

DERRICK
Why what?

CORY
Why do you look like a Brokeback
Kanye West?

DERRICK
And here we go.

CORY
I'm just saying, Derrick. Pink polo
shirt? Khaki capris?

DERRICK
They're cargo pants.

CORY
You look like Drake's stunt double.
(singing)
I'm just saying you could do
better.

Cory laughs at his own joke.

DERRICK
So you wanna laugh? Okay. Let's
talk.

Cory stops abruptly.

DERRICK
You got on South Pole jeans, a
doo-rag, and a size ten hat.

CORY

What's wrong with that?

DERRICK

You look like Allen Iverson's baby picture. And why are you wearing an NWA hoodie?

CORY

What's wrong with NWA?

DERRICK

They're an '80s rap group. You might as well wear a shirt that says "Love is a Battlefield."

CORY

I wear an NWA hoodie because I'm a nigga with an attitude.

DERRICK

You look like a nigga without an attorney.

CORY

Well at least I'm a nigga with some agency. I'm not dressing all nice for the white folks.

DERRICK

Whatever.

Cory and Derrick pull up to a red light. The car sputters and shuts off.

CORY

Aww shit.

Cory tries to start his car.

OUTSIDE, BUBBA REED (white, 20), a redneck wearing a camouflage jacket, pulls up beside Cory in a big Ford truck with Confederate flags painted on the doors.

In the passenger seat beside Bubba is JIM (18), another young redneck. Two other REDNECKS sit in the truck bed.

Looking at Cory, Bubba grins widely.

BUBBA

What's the matta, boy? Car won't crank? Why don't you get out and push. Your people good at pushin', ain't they?

This gets a few chuckles out of Bubba's cronies.

CORY

No, Bubba, my people don't push. We leave that to your mamma. Everybody knows she does a lot of pushin' all over town.

INSIDE CORY'S CAR, Derrick grabs Cory's shoulder. Cory turns his key in the ignition. The car jumps to life.

CORY (cont'd)

Thank you, Allah.

Cory hits the gas and leaves an angry Bubba behind.

DERRICK

This isn't going to end well.

Derrick looks into his side view mirror. Bubba and his boys are gaining on him.

DERRICK (cont'd)

Take the next left!

Cory jerks his steering wheel to the left.

OUTSIDE, Bubba cuts Cory off as they make the left turn.

Cory's car flies off the road and lands in a ditch. Bubba drives off.

INSIDE THE CAR, Cory and Derrick make sure they're okay.

DERRICK (cont'd)

I told you.

CORY

Shut up, Derrick.

EXT. ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

A large high school. Students buzzing all over campus. There's a flag pole with a Confederate flag and the American flag.

OFFICER BEAUFORT (white, 50s) a redneck Jim Gordon and OFFICER DAN (white, 30s) an overweight rent-a-cop lookalike, search students' cars as they pull into the parking lot.

Cory's dirty beat-up Cadillac pulls into the parking lot. In front of them is Bubba's truck. The two officers wave Bubba through. Cory pulls up.

OFFICER BEAUFORT
You know the drill.

CORY
Are you serious? Bubba has a gun rack installed on his truck, with actual guns, and you're searching me?

OFFICER BEAUFORT
Shut up and get out.

Cory and Derrick exit the car. Officer Dan searches Derrick while Officer Beaufort pats Cory down.

OFFICER BEAUFORT (cont'd)
You got anything illegal.

CORY
Yeah I got JonBenét Ramsey tied up in the trunk with two kilos of coke. What do you think?

DERRICK
Cory, leave it alone.

Another car, filled with a bunch of GOTH KIDS dressed in black, pulls up. Officer Beaufort studies the car.

OFFICER BEAUFORT
(to Officer Dan)
Let 'em go.

Cory is livid.

CORY
So you gonna to let Columbine through, but not us?

Officer Beaufort gets into Cory's face.

OFFICER BEAUFORT
You want to cool that attitude in a jail cell downtown?

CORY
You want to stop stealing lines from Hawaii 5-0? You know you can't put me in jail without reading me my rights.

OFFICER BEAUFORT
Officer Dan, tell this boy what we
think of Miranda Rights in our
town.

OFFICER DAN
Ain't no Miranda Rights in
Lynchville.

CORY
Ain't no tread mills in Lynchville
either, huh, White Albert?

Officer Beaufort grabs Cory.

DERRICK
No. He doesn't mean that. He's just
cranky. He lost his Bebe's Kids
DVD.

Officer Beaufort lets Cory go. Cory gets back into the car.

DERRICK (cont'd)
I really appreciate everything you
officers do. Protecting us
from...ourselves. God bless.

Derrick gets into the car.

INT. ROBERT E. LEE HALLWAY - DAY

Derrick grabs a book from his locker. Cory stands nearby
reading a flyer. The flyer is an advertisement for the Young
Republicans' Confederate Day Ball on Saturday, May 10th at
the Santee Park Pavilion.

Cory balls up the flyer and throws it to the floor.

CORY
You believe this shit?

Derrick slams his locker and glares at Cory.

CORY (cont'd)
You still mad at me?

DERRICK
No, I'm still mad at at the last
episode of Lost.

Derrick walks off. Cory follows.

DERRICK (cont'd)
 Everyday it's something with you.
 White people this. White people
 that. White people stole the idea
 of Kung Fu from Bruce Lee.

CORY
 They did.

DERRICK
 Who cares? Why is it so hard for
 you to understand that? Nobody
 likes the angry black man.

CORY
 Well, I don't like begging for
 crumbs at the white man's table.

DERRICK
 Cory, it's 2013. Stop quoting
 Malcolm X and start quoting Maroon
 5.

CORY
 Fine. Name one thing that being Mr.
 Perfect has gotten you.

Derrick stops walking and points to a nearby wall. The wall contains several pictures of former valedictorians from every school year. ALL VALEDICTORIANS IN THE PICTURES ARE WHITE. There is an empty space with the caption 2013 already engraved in the wall.

DERRICK
 I'm in line to be the very first
 black valedictorian of Robert E.
 Lee High. It's never been done
 before and you know why?

CORY
 'Cause the last black valedictorian
 was found mysteriously hanging from
 a tree?

DERRICK
 No. 'Cause I recognized if you
 dress nicely, put on a good act,
 and smile...

Derrick puts on a big grin.