

He reads on, his smile ever widening until-

e comes across something that concerns him and his voice trails off. His smile fades, replaced by a look of dread.

Debbie grows concerned.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

What? What is it? Steven?

He cannot believe his eyes.

11 EXT. BASCOMBE HOME, VIRGINIA, 1984 - DAY

11

Steven walks up to a middle class home and raps on the screen door. A kindly woman (MRS. BASCOMBE) arrives behind the mesh wearing a birthday PARTY HAT.

MRS. BASCOMBE

(alarmed)

Is something wrong officer?

STEVEN

Are you Barbra Bascombe?

MRS. BASCOMBE

Yes. Is something wrong? Is someone hurt?

STEVEN

(lip quivering)

In a manner of speaking, yes. You gave up a baby for adoption, correct?

An ashen look overcomes Mrs. Basham's face. She removes her hat.

MRS. BASCOMBE

I don't think I know what you're talking about.

teven can see that behind her is a small FAMILY
ATHERING at the table, grouped around a BIRTHDAY CAKE.

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STEVEN

Elizabeth City? St Jude's Hospital?
Remember?

MRS. BASCOMBE

I don't know what you're talking about.

STEVEN

You were young. I know that you made a
mistake giving me away, but-

MRS. BASCOMBE

Listen-

STEVEN

Shhhhhh. Mommy please- let me finish.

What color that remains in her face drains away.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

We all make mistakes. What I came here
to say is, I forgive you because none of
us is perfect but now with a fresh start
we can build --

She SLAMS the door in his face. From behind the door-

MRS. BASCOMBE (O.S.)

I have no idea what you're talking about,
Steven.

STEVEN

No, it's okay, I know everything. But
it's fine. Just tell me why--

MRS. BASCOMBE (O.S.)

Go away!

STEVEN

Okay, okay. I understand. It's a lot at once. But I can come back. How's that? I can come back later, I'll bring us some coffee and we can talk about...

(suddenly furious)

WHY YOU ABANDONED ME AND KEPT YOUR OTHER TWO CHILDREN! I WAS THE MIDDLE CHILD! WHAT WAS WRONG WITH ME?! WHAT WAS WRONG WITH ME!?

Tears stream down Steven's face. He gets in his car and slams the door. And as he sits there trying to make sense of things...

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STEVEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I quit the force that day. I packed up the family and moved to Texas. I got a great job and got to living the American Dream.

12 I/E RUSSELL HOUSE - HOUSTON - 1986 - DAY

12

The ideal suburban American barbecue is in full swing at the new Russell household.

In a series of brief vignettes, Steven shows off the house, his family and his new corvette.

CUT TO:

A happy Steven moves through the backyard with a plate of meat fresh off the grill.